



THE



TIMES

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14 1997

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TOMORROW

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MAGAZINE

Howard seeks to overturn defeat

Peers reject mandatory sentencing

By FRANCES GIBB AND JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD last night promised to overturn changes to his tough new sentencing plans after the Government suffered an eight-vote defeat on its law and order policy in the Lords.

A line-up of peers, former Tory ministers and judges, including three past and present Lord Chief Justices, backed a cross-party move giving judges greater sentencing discretion.

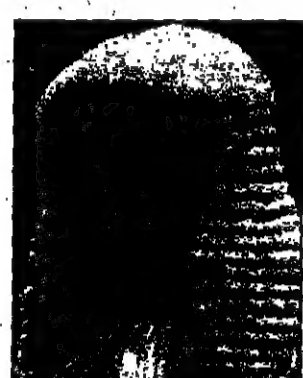
The changes give judges power to set aside the mandatory minimum sentences which the Crime (Sentences) Bill would impose on persistent burglars and drug dealers if they felt the fixed penalties would be unjust.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, leading the judicial attack on the plans, said judges simply wanted the power not to impose a sentence which was "offensive" to their moral consciences and professional judgment. The Home Secretary immediately condemned the changes to the Bill — carried by 180 votes to 172 — warning that they put at risk the Government's law and order measure.

The move showed that Labour could not be trusted on crime, he said. It would "completely undermine the tough and effective action against professional burglars which is contained in the Crime Bill".

"I am going to reverse this amendment because it drives a coach and horses through the provisions of the Bill," he told Channel Four news.

Baroness Blatch, the Home Office Minister who led for the Government in the Lords, said the move would undermine Government efforts to protect



Bingham: led attack

the public from persistent offenders. "Burglars and drug dealers will rejoice at these amendments," she said.

The defeat was the second inflicted by the Lords on the Government in the past two weeks. The other was over Mr Howard's plans for new police-bugging powers.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Conservative Lord Chancellor and Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, former Tory education minister, were among those helping the Government to its defeat.

It opens up the prospect of a further defeat of the Government in the Commons in the run-up to the election if no compromise can be reached.

But Labour, who did not oppose the Bill in the Commons, will risk accusations of being soft on crime if they fail to support it when it comes before MPs again.

Instead, Labour hope Mr Howard will now come under pressure from senior Tories, who have already voiced their concern about the Bill, to make concessions to ensure the safe passage of the measure before the election.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said last night: "I repeat my offer to the Home Secretary to engage in the same constructive discussion on this Lords defeat as he and I had on the Police Bill." The amendments preserved the idea of minimum sentences, he said, but made the Bill workable.

Last night's defeat came over one of the Bill's most controversial measures: proposals for mandatory minimum sentences of three years for repeat (third time) domestic burglars and seven for drug traffickers.

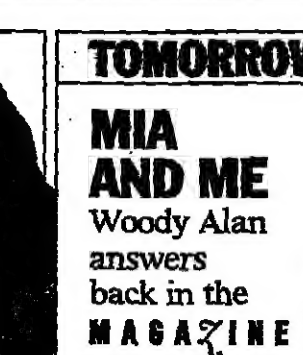
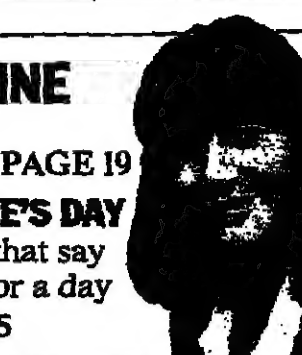
The Bill also introduces automatic life sentences for second-time violent and sexual offenders and abolishes the present system of parole.

Lord Bingham, with his predecessors Lord Taylor of Gosforth and Lord Lane sitting near by, said that passing sentence was not a "mechanical task", and drawing up rules of thumb was not the solution.

Ten Tory peers voted against the Government. The Labour amendment was also backed by 13 past and present law lords, 77 Labour peers, 41 Liberal Democrats, 37 crossbenchers, and the Bishops of Birmingham and Hereford.

The defeat was widely welcomed by the Law Society, Bar and penal groups. Paul Cavadino, chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium which represents 33 criminal justice bodies, said the Lords had "struck a blow for fairness and justice in sentencing."

Debate, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21



Britain defies US to back Tehran oil fair

By MICHAEL SINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is to sponsor a stand at an energy fair in Tehran in April, encouraging British firms to invest in Iran's gas and oil industry in defiance of American sanctions.

The news comes a day after the Foreign Office denounced as "outrageous" the increase to \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) in the bounty to be paid by an Iranian foundation for the murder of Salman Rushdie, the British author, for allegedly blaspheming the Prophet.

The Department of Trade and Industry is going ahead with preparations to set up a stand that would act as a conduit for smaller British companies wanting to establish themselves in Iran.

The Foreign Office, which holds the Iranian Government directly responsible for the bounty offer, is pressing for an end to European dialogue with Iran and an increase in political and economic pressure on Tehran.

Yesterday, however, a spokesman said he saw "no contradiction" in the promotion of British trade in Iran at a time when political relations were deteriorating. He said "critical dialogue" was still the European Union's policy towards Iran.

About ten British firms are expected to take part in the fair and the DTI will offer logistical support. A Foreign Office spokesman said it would offer help "if asked".

Under legislation introduced in the US Congress by Senator Alfonse D'Amato and signed into law last August, any foreign company that invests heavily in Iran's energy sector is liable to sanctions in America. However, this legislation has not yet been enforced against any company.

The Foreign Office yesterday said that there had been no US pressure on Britain to curb trade with Iran.

Parents' plea, page 4
Army backs fatwa, page 14



Lorraine McElroy, who was injured in the shooting in Bessbrook. "My heart aches for the family," she said

'I keep seeing soldier's smile'

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

THE woman who narrowly escaped death in the IRA sniper attack in Co. Armagh yesterday of how Lance Bombardier Stephen Rosterick was shot in the back as he stood smiling at her.

Lorraine McElroy, 35, a Roman Catholic, was taken to hospital in the same ambulance as the soldier. "That was probably the most horrific thing I have ever endured in my life because I watched a young man dying. I just wanted to go and hold him because he was so alone and he was dying."

Mrs McElroy, who suffered a ribcage wound to her head, said the soldier greeted her with a friendly smile as she stopped her car at a check-

point. She said she was familiar with reports of soldiers being killed in Northern Ireland, but said there was nothing that could prepare her for watching a friendly young man die. "What makes it so

horrific was that he was smiling at me. Last night when we got home all I could think of was his face smiling at me. My heart just breaks for his family."

The bullet, which struck the



Stephen Rosterick: shot as he smiled at family

soldier in his back in Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, ricocheted off his rifle before grazing Mrs McElroy above her left eye. She said: "I actually thought that I had been shot and my husband thought the same."

Mrs McElroy said she was driving home from a trip to buy ice cream with her husband, Tony, also 35, and their two children, David, one, and Sean, 13. They were flagged down by L/Bdr Rosterick at the checkpoint. "When it came to ourselves the soldier recognised us. He would always smile and say hello to the baby in the back of the car. He took my driving licence and was literally handing it back to me and smiling and saying thanks when it happened. There was a crack and a

Continued on page 2, col 5

Beijing tension

Tension continued in Beijing as Seoul sent a delegation for talks with Chinese officials about the North Korean official taking refuge in a South Korean diplomatic compound. Hwang Jang Yop, 72, is a confidant of Kim Jong Il. Pages 13, 21

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Romantic John outwoos Tony

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR reveals in a Valentine's Day interview today that marriage to Norma was the most significant event of his life and far more important than becoming Prime Minister.

Tony Blair, who has been married to Cherie for 16 years compared with the 26-year union of John and Norma, is much less romantic. Asked in *Cosmopolitan* magazine, which features the Labour leader in its directory of the 100 sexiest men alive, which

was the most significant event of his life, he replied: "Becoming the Labour Party leader."

Mr Major told *Cosmopolitan*: "It's true but true. Marrying Norma is the single most significant event of my life. I was married to Norma long before I became Prime Minister. I will be married to Norma long after I cease to be Prime Minister."

The party leaders both agreed to the interviews with the women's magazine as part of their effort to raise their appeal with women voters. Mr Major wore a grey suit for his interview while Mr Blair

was more relaxed in khaki trousers and denim shirt at his Islington home.

The Prime Minister, challenged about his grey image, denied he had been to an image consultant. "They are all booked up with the Labour Party," he said. Mr Blair clearly has not taken advantage of their services. When asked whether his shirt was from Gap, he said: "It's not actually. I bought this from Borsari."

Tracing suspects, page 5
Valerie Grove, page 19
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Woman points gun at judges

By RICHARD DUCE
AND FRANCES GIBB

A WOMAN was on the run last night after she threatened three senior judges with a gun and sparked a huge security alert at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

The Victorian Gothic buildings were sealed off for more than four hours as armed police searched seven miles of corridors in a fruitless hunt for the woman. Hundreds of be-wigged judges, barristers wearing robes and court officials spilled out on to the pavement in The Strand as the

courts were evacuated. All legal business for the day was abandoned.

The incident, in oak-pannelled Court number seven, has raised concerns over security at the courts, even if the woman, which witnesses described as resembling a

Luger pistol, proves to have been a lunatic.

The alert began at about 12.20pm yesterday when the woman, wearing a green anorak, walked forward from the public gallery holding the gun in front of her in a double-handed police-style grip.

She shouted in what was thought to be an American accent: "I want my appeal heard now. I want my children. If I'm not heard, I will shoot the judges."

The bench had been in the middle of handing down judgment in a criminal appeal unconnected with the woman. Mr Justice Mance slipped out of court by a rear door to raise the alarm, leaving behind Mrs Justice Branson and Lord Justice Beldam, who tried to calm the woman.

After brandishing the gun at the judges for some three minutes, the woman left by 6

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"One thing's certain — it's not Douglas Hogg's writing"



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Tune in, fade out, as the Commons stars play it safe with repeats

A slight pause in Angela Knight's speech yesterday, betrayed much. A last-minute change of vocabulary spoke volumes. The leggy Economics Secretary to the Treasury had been slightly disconcerted by the arrival of the Prime Minister, for Questions, just before the end of Treasury Questions where she was fielding the last inquiry. Wishing to explain the position on the Continent, she began her sentence: "So many of our European..."

John Major was almost beside her. Almost certainly she had intended to say "so many of our European partners" (or "allies" or even "friends") — but, on second thoughts, was that the right word? Was European partnership a constant as an ideal these days? What was the Cabinet compromise on this? Had she missed an internal memo? She could have tipped over the other way, and gone for "our European rivals" (or "enemies" or even "foes") but this, too, might displease the Prime Minister, and would certainly

displease her boss, Kenneth Clarke. What should Mrs Knight do? "So many," she said, "of our European...". Especially in politics, there is refuge in gibberish. Or in repetition. It has been rightly said that a statesman must choose between repeating himself and contradicting himself. Yesterday Tony Blair asked the same question that he has asked at least twice before, about BSE in cattle — what was the Government going to do about it? — and repeated the same opinions.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

John Major replied with the same accusations he always dishes out on these occasions: that the Opposition should stop undermining British agriculture, at this sensitive moment. It may be that both men have decided that the safest course for each is to stage a rerun of favourite Dispatch Box exchanges from recent years —

a sort of *These You Have Loved*, or House of Commons Gold — from now until the election. There were a couple of variations on the theme. The Labour leader managed to mention Northern Ireland in his question. This was presumably with an eye to possible Unionist support in the coming debate on the

Agriculture Minister's salary. And the Prime Minister, who in the past has accused the Shadow Health Secretary, Haillet Harman, of aggravating the BSE health scare, now appears to have decided that she caused it almost single-handedly. A viral infection in cattle? Contaminated feed? Species cross-over to humans? Nothing of the sort. The whole thing was caused by Mrs Harman. To loud Tory cheers behind him, Mr Major said that it was her attempt "to stoke up a

health scare" which lay behind the bills that Britain now had to pay for cattle slaughter. "Where is she?" shouted Government backbenchers. Too modest to appear, presumably. It really is quite an achievement by this unassuming middle-class lady from Peckham to have wrecked the nation's livestock industry with one remark — "public confidence is hanging by a thread" — in the Commons chamber. There was another small change in Mr Major's script, yesterday. Tony Blair asked

him whether it was true that the cost of the crisis had now reached £3.36 billion. "Yes," said Major, that was true. For a second, Mr Blair looked quite taken aback. It was as if the stage prompt had given the PM the wrong line. He was supposed to ignore the question, whereupon the Labour leader's script directed him to taunt the PM for evasion. But he had not ignored the question. What was Blair to do? Easy. He ignored the answer.

Ex-minister attacks leak 'shambles' in conduct committee

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Tory minister called last night for the interrogation of senior colleagues on oath as part of a public inquiry into leaks from a Commons disciplinary committee.

Richard Ryder, a former Chief Whip, claimed that an MP on the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee had told journalists that he was criticised in a report. Mr Ryder demanded that the 11 committee members should be interviewed publicly to discover which MP had leaked details of the report before its publication yesterday.

The report does not criticise Mr Ryder by name but says that the Whips' office that he headed had made a mistake in 1994 which had damaged the work of an earlier disciplinary investigation.

Mr Ryder wrote to Tony Newton, the committee chairman, demanding that the committee carry out a full investigation into "this shambles" before it conducted a bigger inquiry into allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister accused of accepting cash payments to table Commons questions.

His intervention, and the threat of legal action against the MP, overshadowed the publication of the committee's report, which cleared Andrew



Ryder said an MP had leaked criticism of him

Mitchell, a Social Security minister, of improper behaviour. Mr Mitchell, who served as a government whip on an earlier disciplinary committee, investigating claims against Mr Hamilton, was accused by Labour of using his position in 1994 to try to influence fellow Tory MPs on the committee.

The committee, which comprises senior MPs of the three main parties, accepted Mr Mitchell's assurances that he had never used his whip's position to influence Tories while serving on the Members' Interests Committee, but had served simply as a backbench MP. Five Tories who served on the now defunct committee wrote in support of his assurances.

Mr Mitchell told the Standards and Privileges Committee during a public hearing last month that he had not

even known that the Members' Interests Committee was a quasi-judicial committee. However, yesterday's cross-party report said: "We consider that all members should have been aware that the Members' Interests Select Committee was a quasi-judicial committee."

The report reserved its main criticism for the decision to appoint a whip to the committee. "Whips are particularly associated with the political parties they serve," the report by the Tory-dominated committee said.

"We conclude that it is inappropriate for whips of the main parties to be appointed to any committee considering the conduct of individual members or which otherwise sit in a quasi-judicial capacity. Such appointments are bound to give rise to suspicions of political interference, whether such suspicions are justified or not. The appointment of Mr Mitchell was a mistake which damaged the work of the select committee on members' interests during 1994 and 1995."

"We recommend the House never in future appoints a whip of one of the main parties to any quasi-judicial select committee." The report said that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, then chairman of the Members' Interests committee, had not been consulted about the appointment of a whip to his committee.



Sir Richard Scott yesterday: "The record over the past years suggests there needs to be a supervisory mechanism"

Scott calls for check on ministers

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

SIR Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, said last night that Parliament should appoint a watchdog to check that government ministers were not withholding information from MPs.

In an interview to mark the first anniversary tomorrow of his report into the arms-to-Iraq affair, Sir Richard said that he was particularly concerned by ministers' use of the term "commercial confidentiality" to block information. During his inquiry he was aware of the frequent use of

"commercial confidentiality" in relation to defence sales overseas. "When government has to weigh up the public interest exception, what sort of commercial confidentiality is of sufficient weight to offset the balance of something that is of the highest democratic importance?" Sir Richard said yesterday.

He believes that ministers could still be misleading MPs and that it is important to establish an independent check. He suggested the appointment of an officer of Parliament who had the right to call papers and see whether the Government had exceeded its use of "public interest exceptions".

This week the House of Commons for the first time published a list of questions tabled by MPs that were blocked by the Government during the past year. The Department of Trade and Industry blocked the highest number, 51 questions, citing commercial confidentiality in 14 cases. The Ministry of Defence blocked 50 questions.

There has been particular concern among MPs about difficulties in obtaining information on government work held off to private firms and quasi-independent bodies. Sir

Richard has not monitored the answers, but he said: "The record over the past years suggests there needs to be a supervisory mechanism, independent of government, to keep an eye on whether the public interest exception is properly used or overused."

Sir Richard was otherwise pleased with government response to his report. It was "reasonable" that a final decision on a new system for export licences had been delayed until after the election. It was "excellent" that the new, less onerous, applied to public interest immunity certificates.

Major derides Labour devolution proposals

By JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR will today attack Labour over its devolution plans, claiming they would "destroy 1,000 years of British history".

Speaking at the Welsh Conference in Holywell, the Prime Minister will attempt to deflect attention from Monday's censure motion on Douglas Hogg by insisting that Mr Blair would "gerrymander Britain and play party politics with our nation". He will add: "Labour would throw a bone to the yapping dogs in Welsh and Scottish separatism in the vain hope that they might follow the party."

Mr Major will also open a Commons debate on the constitution next Thursday, in an attempt to return to the off-

sive on the issue after the embarrassing row over Stephen Dorrell's change of tactics on a Scottish Parliament.

Tony Blair's aides said the Labour leader was now preparing for a March 20 general election. But that date was firmly ruled out by Tory party sources last night, and the Prime Minister again pointed to May 1 in a television interview. But in a clear hint that the date would be later rather than sooner, Mr Major said: "There is a general election in the not too distant future. People should sit back and relax and not get too over-excited about it."

He said that the Government had no need to go to the country early when there was

such a heavy and important legislative programme going through Parliament, with Bills on education, firearms and law and order.

Mr Major refused to rule out a televised debate with Labour and said he looked forward to the campaign. He derided Labour's vote of censure on Douglas Hogg's handling of the beef crisis as a stunt, and said he would not be offering deals to the Ulster Unionists to preserve the Government's majority. But it emerged that Malcolm Rifkind is to fly back from Singapore this weekend to ensure a full Tory turnout for the debate, which could precipitate a vote of confidence if the Government is defeated.

Shot soldier

Continued from page 1
flash and the next thing I knew there was blood pouring from my head."

Mrs McElroy was scornful yesterday of the IRA and said she would hate to think that the world thought the terrorists represented Irish Catholics.

She said: "Whoever did this had a clear view of what they were doing. They saw that soldier, they saw him speaking to me. There was a baby seat in the back of the car, they didn't know my baby was in it. They did not care — they killed that man and were quite happy to kill me and whoever else was with me as long as they got him."

In Peterborough, where L/Bdr Restorick's grieving family gathered at his home, his parents, John and Rita Restorick, condemned the IRA as "cowards" but called for calm and appealed for the loyalists not to retaliate.

The shooting was widely condemned on both sides of the Irish border yesterday. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, told the Irish Parliament: "This murder is anti-Irish and it is antithetical to all the interests of all the Irish people."

Gun scare at courts

Continued from page 1
same door as Mr Justice Mance, and disappeared in the labyrinth of corridors. She came within yards of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill.

Mr Thomas MacKinnon, the barrister conducting the interrupted appeal, said Lord Justice Beldam and Mrs Justice Bracewell deserved medals for bravery. "The woman sprinted from the public gallery at the rear of the court and up the stairs beside the judges' bench."

He described how Mr Justice Mance calmly left the court while Mrs Justice Bracewell told the woman: "Why don't you put your gun

down? Let's consider this." Mr MacKinnon, who said the woman resembled a Second World War Luger, added: "There is some debate as to whether it was a real gun. She told everyone not to move, and when the senior court registrar, Ray Armstrong, moved towards her and said he would like to 'take down details of her case, she pointed the gun at him and said: 'No one will get hurt if you don't move. If anyone moves, you will all get shot.'"

He said the woman, who was 5ft 2in, appeared deranged and talked gibberish. The court shorthand writer, who is pregnant was last night said to be deeply shocked.

One theory is that the woman had intended to target Mrs Justice Bracewell, a family division judge, because her grievance appeared to centre on a child-custody matter.

Within 10 minutes, police had drafted in an armed response team carrying machine-guns. The search, overseen by Superintendent Louisa Elliston, relied on blueprints of the 1871 building designed by George Street.

After it was wound down, Ms Elliston said: "We have not found any sign of the lady or of a weapon. We have a suspect."



Bracewell: "deserves medal for bravery"

Parents' plea, page 4

Judge backs boy, 9, over foster care

A High Court judge yesterday upheld a nine-year-old boy's right to say who he wants to look after him. Mr Justice Scott Baker criticised Devon social services for threatening a foster couple with jail unless they gave up the child.

The boy had lived with the couple for 2½ years and was happy they were going to "adopt" him. Nobody had asked the child's opinion before deciding he should be handed back to a previous foster couple he had not seen for over two years. The judge ruled that the boy's wishes and feelings were paramount.

No link between officers' deaths

Peter Curran, 38, a prison officer from Whitmore jail, Cambridgeshire, found dead 10 months after disappearing, died from "immersion in water", police said. He was found in his submerged car.

Police found no link between the deaths of Mr Curran and Marcia Whitmore, 37, another officer at the jail who died in similar circumstances last month.

Police suspended over sex claims

Three officers have been suspended over allegations of indecent sexual behaviour involving a strip-tease woman at a birthday party in the bar of the Lancashire Police training centre at Hutton, near Preston. Fifteen officers from different forces have been ordered to leave the centre. The Police Complaints Authority is to supervise an investigation.

Couple jailed for blowing up house

A couple who blew up their house to claim £30,000 on insurance have been jailed for 2½ years by Gloucester Crown Court. Abdul and Julie Patel, 46, were convicted of arson. The couple, who were £44,000 in arrears with mortgage payments and feared repossession had made the property unsaleable, blamed a racist attack after a fire at their house in Gloucester.

Anti-gun group's £1m campaign

The Snowdrop Petition, the anti-gun campaign set up after the Dunblane massacre, is to run a £1 million cinema, press and poster advertising campaign in the run-up to the election. The London advertising agency Delaney Fletcher Bozell is offering its services free of charge to keep the handgun issue in the public mind during the election campaign.

Woman priest at St Paul's delight

The Rev Lucy Winkett, the first woman priest to be appointed to St Paul's Cathedral, said yesterday she was "delighted" to accept the job as a minor canon, which has dismayed traditionalists.

Miss Winkett, 29, who is on a sabbatical holiday in Austria, said that she was looking forward to working at the cathedral from September.

Leading article, page 21

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Victim's mother spotted signs missed by doctor

GP who hid fatal error jailed for manslaughter

BY A STAFF REPORTER

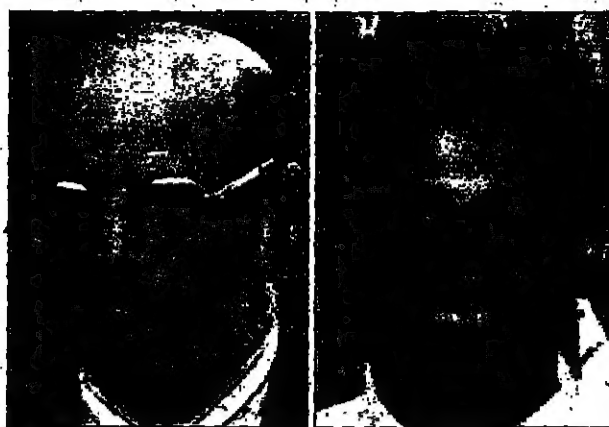
A FAMILY doctor who failed to perform a simple test that could have saved the life of a young father and then tried to falsify his medical records has been jailed for a year for manslaughter.

Salim Najada, a GP in Birmingham, failed to diagnose diabetes in Peter Coles, 28, though he was showing the classic signs of the condition and even his mother had guessed that he had diabetes.

Mr Coles, of King's Heath, Birmingham, who had two children aged five and three, lapsed into a diabetic coma and died at Birmingham's Selly Oak Hospital on December 6, 1992. He had visited Najada, who ran a single-handed practice in King's Heath, several times during the previous three weeks complaining of a dry mouth, excessive thirst, dizziness and fatigue.

On one occasion he took a sample of urine, but Najada did not test it. Instead he was given a sick note, a mouth spray and treatment for a chest infection and vertigo.

Nigel Ruffin, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury at Birmingham Crown Court that Najada was "grossly negligent". He said that Najada had falsified the medical notes when the coroner began investigating to make it appear that he had been



Salim Najada, left, who failed to identify Peter Coles's condition, instead prescribing medicine for vertigo

aware of the serious nature of his patient's condition but had been unable to persuade him to attend hospital. However, his deception was revealed at the inquest when the coroner produced a photocopy of the original, unamended notes.

Najada, a Jordanian who qualified in Madrid, was jailed for 12 months after being convicted of manslaughter and perverting the course of justice. He began his sentence in December but the judge imposed a ban on reporting the case because other charges were pending. The ban was lifted yesterday, after the other charges were abandoned.

Najada has had an eventful career since registering to

practise in Britain in 1981. His former practice partner, Danuta Kaczmarek, was murdered in 1986. She had been hit over the head and her body burnt on a pyre of cushions at her Birmingham home. Najada, who admitted having an affair with Dr Kaczmarek, was briefly arrested but was not charged and the murder remains unsolved.

Frank Coles, the dead man's father, said that the sentence was "ridiculous". His wife, Margaret, 60, said she had urged her son to ask the doctor to do a test for diabetes. "I had noticed he was drinking excessively and said it might be diabetes so he should see the doctor and take a sample with

him," Mrs Coles said. "When he came home he told me the doctor said it was a chest infection. I blame Najada for my son's death. If he had done his job properly Peter would still be around today. He'll be out soon but I've lost my son forever and his kids have lost their father."

Mr Coles's former wife Susan, 32, a nurse, is hoping to claim civil damages against Najada.

It is estimated that 1.4 million Britons suffer from diabetes — an inability to produce sufficient insulin — and the average GP has 50 cases on his list. Diabetes can be easily diagnosed by placing a dipstick in a sample of urine. The diagnosis is confirmed by a blood test and the condition can be treated by control of the diet or injections of insulin.

Dr Najada, was fined £3,000 in 1993 by the family health services authority, but allowed to continue in practice until convicted last November. His 900 patients were asked to find new GPs by the end of last year.

When he has completed his sentence, which could be in eight months, the General Medical Council will consider his case and is expected to strike him off the medical register. Although he would have the right of appeal for restoration to the register after 12 months, it is unlikely that such an appeal would succeed.



Louise Woodward arriving handcuffed at the court yesterday

Nanny pleads not guilty to baby murder

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN BOSTON

THE nanny accused of murdering a nine-month-old baby in America pleaded not guilty yesterday. Louise Woodward, 18, of Elton, Cheshire, listened to Judge Blezer's decision to refuse her bail in silence at the small district court in the quiet Boston suburb of Newton.

Matthew Eappen died of a brain haemorrhage, allegedly after being struck on the head. Miss Woodward has admitted losing her temper with the child, shaking him and throwing him on to a pile of towels.

Lynn Rooney, the Assistant District Attorney, disclosed that a post-mortem examination had found a 2½ in fracture in the rear right-hand side of the baby's skull. "This child died after a blunt force trauma to the head," she said. "It would suggest that the amount of force was extremely severe. He was struck against an extremely hard object causing trauma and whiplash bruising inside the head."

Maria Galvagna, for Miss Woodward, said she was "no threat to the community or the victim's family". She added: "Despite the fact that she is British, she should be accorded all the rights of this court, including a presumption of innocence."

Miss Woodward snarled expressiveness throughout the brief hearing. She had arrived at the court in leg-irons, arms held in front of her in handcuffs and seemingly bewildered by the bright sunshine, noisy television cameras and intrigued onlookers.

Miss Galvagna said that a leading Massachusetts barrister had offered to take Miss Woodward in. It was "hard and unjust" to keep her in the women's prison in nearby Framingham, where she had been moved from solitary confinement to a general wing. However, Judge Blezer swiftly rejected her request for bail.

A grand jury will decide the severity of the murder charges to be faced by Miss Woodward. They range from manslaughter, the least serious, to first degree murder, which could carry a life sentence. The defence's tactics may include a request for a mental examination.

The defendant's father, Gary Woodward, a builder, watched yesterday's hearing from the front row of the public seats. "I have no comment at this time," he said.

Killer Sams given eight years for jail kidnapping

BY PAUL WILKINSON

MICHAEL SAMs, the killer and kidnapper, was yesterday given another eight years in jail for holding a probation officer hostage to draw public attention to his prison grievances.

Sams, given four life sentences in July 1993 for the murder of Julie Dart, a Leeds prostitute, and the kidnap of Stephanie Slater, a Birmingham estate agent, had taken Julie Flack hostage inside Wakefield jail. He was found not guilty at Durham Crown Court of attempting to murder Mrs Flack, the wife of the Bishop of Huntingdon, but guilty of false imprisonment.

Sams, 35, originally from Newark, Nottinghamshire, had told the court that he planned to take a hostage so he could air his anger at the refusal of legal aid for him to sue for libel over Miss Slater's claim in her book that she was raped while she was his prisoner. He was also incensed that the prison authorities had prevented him selling his paintings for children's charities and refused to consider his complaint that six of his books on railways had been stolen by staff.

Mrs Flack, 50, who was accompanied in court by her husband John, who was archdeacon of Pontefract at the time of the attack, was upset at the verdict. She dropped her head and wiped tears from her eyes.

The eight-year sentence will run concurrently with the life sentences. Mr Justice Moreland described the offence of false imprisonment as "very grave" but suggested that the Director of Prisons and Chief Inspector of Prisons should investigate the way that Sams's complaints were



Julia Flack was held hostage on prison visit

handled. The court was told that when Mrs Flack tried to hit a panic button, Sams, who was armed with a sharpened metal spike and a length of tape, told her: "Touch that button and you are dead."

Fellow inmates said they heard Mrs Flack scream "almost like death" and found Sams with his left arm around her neck and struggling with her on the floor. After the verdict Mrs Flack said: "Although he is already serving a life sentence I think it was right he was prosecuted for his attack which indeed did threaten my life. His conviction gives a message to everyone in prison that the law will uphold the right of people like myself not to face intimidation or assault from prisoners."

She said that being cross-examined by Sams was "a considerable ordeal for me personally but nevertheless it was important as part of my own recovery process. I would go back to working in a prison again if I had the chance but that is not up for discussion at the moment."

Grobbeelaar 'took cash for forecasts not fixing'

BY LIN JENKINS

MONEY alleged to have been received by Bruce Grobbeelaar to rig matches was paid purely for forecasting results, the goalkeeper told Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Grobbeelaar said that he had never thrown a match or accepted money to do so. Asked by his counsel, Rodney Klevan, QC, if £25,000 he had given to Christopher Vincent, a friend, to invest in their native Zimbabwe had been "a reward for throwing games", he replied: "There is no truth in that."

He said that his bond with the Liverpool fans would have prevented him from letting them down. "You don't go on to the field to lose games."

Mr Grobbeelaar, 39, was giving evidence for the first time on the 21st day of the trial. He and Hans Segers, 35, John Fashanu, 34, and Heng Suan Lim, 31, deny conspiring to give and accept corrupt payments. Mr Grobbeelaar also denies corruptly accepting £2,000 from Mr Vincent.

The goalkeeper said he had been introduced to Mr Lim, a Malaysian businessman, by Mr Fashanu, who said he might be able to find investors for a safari park project in Zimbabwe. Later Mr Lim asked if he was interested in forecasting games, something he had done before for a newspaper in Norway.

"Naturally the answer was yes. He said he would give me some money: £250 for a correct forecast of first division matches," Mr Grobbeelaar said. He admitted receiving £1,000 cash from Mr Lim at a Manchester hotel but said it was for forecasting, not match-fixing as Mr Vincent had claimed.

The trial continues.

BT refuses inquiry over staff's lucky lines to Concorde flight

BY GLEN OWEN AND STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO British Telecom staff who beat 30 million callers trying to win £10 Concorde tickets work for the department that designs computer data for the telephone system, it emerged yesterday.

Neville Secnar and Dean Perry, who work in the same London office, were among the first 190 to ring a British Airways hotline after 10pm on Tuesday, to take up the offer celebrating the tenth anniversary of the airline's privatisation. The pair separately dialled the special 0345 number from their desks in BT's Data Build department in Mondial House, Upper Thames Street, Holborn.

Today they will travel to New York on Concorde's Valentine's Day flight with their partners. The return trip

usually costs £5,400. The offer was one of the most over-subscribed ever, with 20 million calls between 9.50pm and 10.15pm.

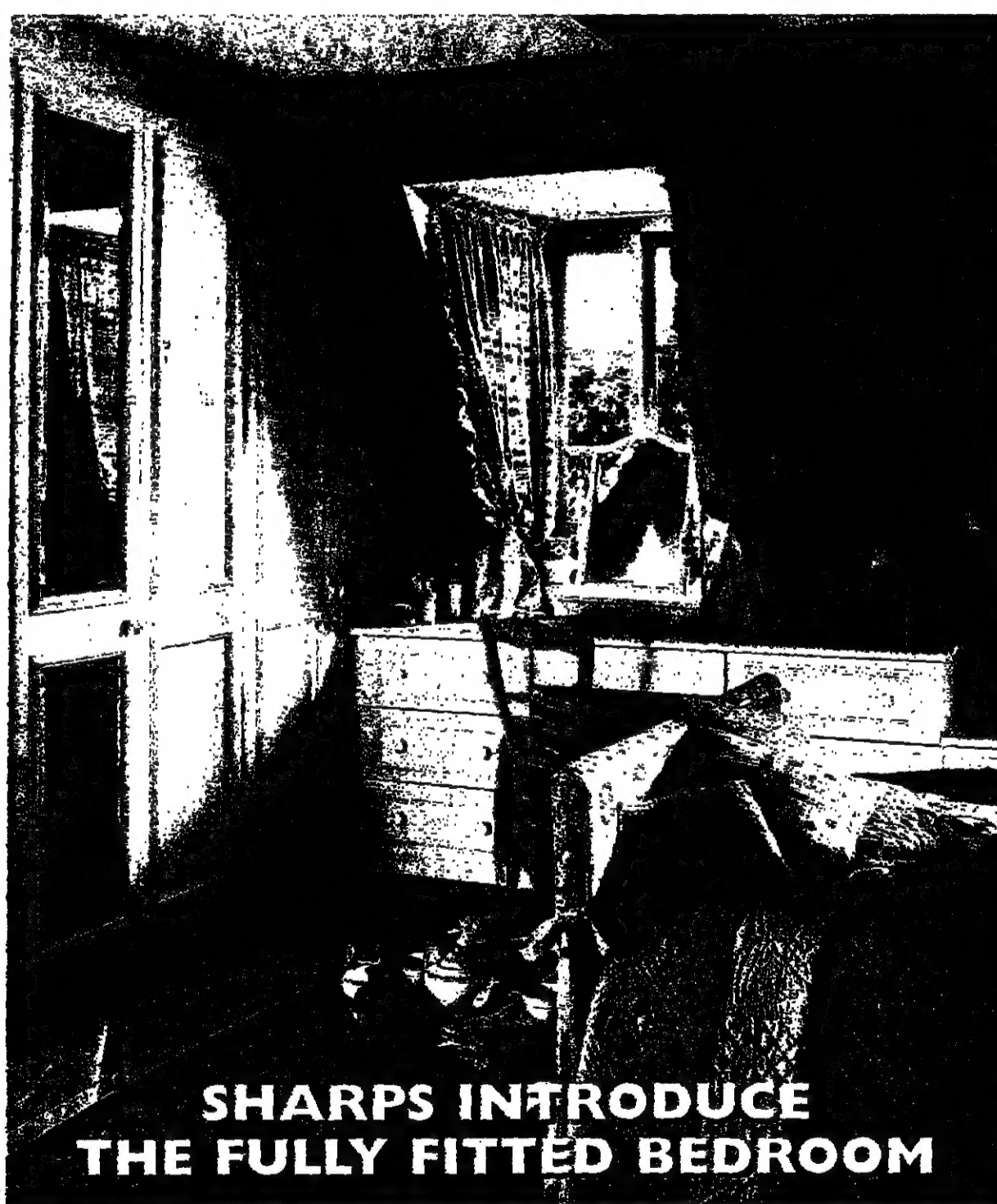
Despite BT's insistence that the offer was a lottery for all those taking part, experts last night called for an investigation, claiming that insiders may have known short cuts to avoid calls being filtered out by the "call-gapping", or screening, mechanisms. Richard Cox, an independent telecoms consultant, said: "Data Build are probably the group of people who know most about how the system works, apart from the BT Network managers in Oswestry and London. BT has a duty to the public to investigate."

Mr Secnar, 25, from Kent,

has insisted the win was pure chance. "We came in to do some work, and thought it was worth a go. Some might think that we found some way round it, but it is not true."

A BT spokesman insisted there would be no investigation without evidence of wrongdoing. He refused to reveal the men's jobs at Data Build. One of their colleagues confirmed that the department built the data that runs the telephone system, but added: "I can't tell you any more about what we do. We all have to sign the Official Secrets Act, you know."

A BA spokesman said it would not call for an investigation either. "BT assures us that this was purely a coincidence and there is nothing to worry about."



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OPEN 7 DAYS

'For goodness sake, get round the table — we want his death to focus people's minds'

Murdered soldier's parents appeal for calm after shooting

By ADRIAN LEE

STEPHEN RESTORICK, the soldier murdered by an IRA sniper, was an outgoing, fun-loving young man who loved music and mountain biking, but it was the Army that gave him a purpose in life, friends said yesterday.

As his family gathered at his home in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, his parents John and Rita Restorick condemned the IRA as cowards but called for calm and appealed for the loyalists not to retaliate. Mr and Mrs Restorick hope that their son's death will inspire renewed efforts for peace.

"I think ultimately Ireland should be one country," said Mrs Restorick, 47. Both parents said the Government must accept some of the blame for letting peace "slip through their fingers".

"For goodness sake, get



Stephen, aged five as a boy, he wanted to join up

round the table," was Mrs Restorick's message. "We want his death to focus people's minds. I expected this to make just a little paragraph in the newspapers, hidden away, but at least people are taking notice. It could not have been a better life that has been wasted."

The couple, with their other son, Mark, 26, said they had decided to speak to the media to draw as much attention as possible to the killing. They said they would remember their son, who would have been 24 this month, as an extrovert, with a smile on his face, and full of affection. "He would always throw his arms around me," said his mother.

"The danger was not something we really spoke about," she said. "It was just understood between us that it went with the job. As far as I was concerned, joining the Army was the last thing I wanted him to do but you can't dictate how your children live."

Of their last telephone conversation, on Sunday, Mrs Restorick said: "He was just talking about the long hours he was working. It was just checks, that sort of thing, but he was happy enough."

"I don't blame the Army at all for what has happened — it was just one of those things."

Mr Restorick said he sat down with his son when he decided to join the Army and explained that he might find himself on the front line in Northern Ireland. "He accepted that."

From the moment he made his first model aircraft and hung it from his bedroom



A soldier on patrol yesterday near the scene in Bessbrook, South Armagh, where Stephen Restorick was shot by a sniper at a checkpoint

ceiling, Stephen dreamed of joining the Armed Forces. He was a member of the Air Training Corps in Peterborough and stayed on an extra year into the sixth form at Bushfield Community School to retake his GCSEs, hoping to follow his father — a sergeant fitter for 22 years — into the RAF. But curbs meant he was denied his first choice.

The teenager had a series of temporary jobs and was un-

employed when he signed up with the Army.

When he passed out after training in 1992, he finished in the top 10 per cent of his group, winning selection to the 3rd regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery. As a 19-year-old he went on his first tour to Northern Ireland, in the same year, and returned there from the regimental base at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, for a second six-month duty in

October last year. Lisa Fellows, 23, a school friend for six years, said: "He did not enjoy Northern Ireland but the Army gave him a purpose in life after being unemployed. He found it difficult being away from his family and friends."

"I feel angry, he was so young, it is unfair. He always wanted to go into the forces — the Airfix models hanging from his ceiling were a stand-

ing joke." Colin Clark, 24, went for a meal in Peterborough with him when Stephen returned home briefly over Christmas. "We got quite drunk, ate too much, said Mr Clark, an accountant. "We did speak about Northern Ireland; he said he could never relax over there."

His commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Sykes, said: "He was a thoroughly popular man. His

easy-going nature and ready sense of humour made him many friends in his battery and regiment."

Lance Bombardier Restorick — who had been planning to leave the Army in a couple of years, his parents said — will be cremated in Peterborough but there will not be a full military funeral, at his parents' request. "No rifles, no shooting over the grave," said his father.

Sniper's weapon was meant for machines, not men

By NICHOLAS WATT AND MICHAEL EVANS

AN IRA gunman armed with a 50-calibre American sniper rifle is thought to have been responsible for the murder of Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick.

The rifle, a Barrett "Light 50" M82A1, was developed to penetrate armour and destroy equipment, such as aircraft and radars. It fires a bullet weighing just over 1½ ounces at 2,900ft per second, and would have a devastating impact on a human target. "It would be like being hit by a three-ton truck," Ian Hogg,

the Editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*, said.

The gun is believed to have been smuggled out of the United States several years ago and the IRA may have two in its armoury. It is used by the US Army and has also been purchased by the SAS because of its anti-equipment capability.

Lance Bombardier Restorick was the first soldier to be murdered by an IRA sniper since December 1993. His death brings to 12 the number of troops and RUC



The 50-calibre Barrett Light 50 was designed to pierce armour.

officers killed by snipers since 1992. There has been speculation in Northern Ireland that one sniper has been responsible for all the shootings, but security sources believe that the IRA has trained more

than one person to fire such weapons.

Lance Bombardier Restorick was hit by a single 0.5-calibre round. The Barrett Light 50 has a range of more than 2,000 yards for large

equipment but would be accurate against a human target from a maximum of about 600 yards, Mr Hogg said.

He described the semi-automatic rifle, with a telescopic sight and mounted on a tripod, as relatively simple to use. The gunman may have fired from the back of a van before escaping to an IRA safe house along the border from the murder scene, at Bessbrook in Co Armagh. IRA snipers have also opened fire from behind walls and from specially built platforms.

During the last wave of IRA shootings the words "Sniper

at work" were emblazoned above a drawing of a gunman on a mock road sign. This was amended to include the words "On hold" during the 18-month ceasefire.

The IRA relaunched its campaign of violence in Northern Ireland last October with two car bombs at the Army's headquarters. The shooting of Lance Bombardier Restorick is likely to have been endorsed by the terrorist leadership. One of the most hardline IRA members in South Armagh sits on the Provisional IRA's army council.



John and Rita Restorick spoke to their son on Sunday

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Private detectives seeking suspects in Valentine mystery

By OLIVER AUGUST

PRIVATE detectives are being hired for up to £500 a case to find the anonymous senders of Valentine cards. They use modern surveillance technology and handwriting analysis to track down senders.

Frustration at missing out on what could be a beautiful romance is the main motivation for the detectives' clients. Barrington Detective Bureau, in Mayfair, said: "We are inundated with calls. People are desperate to find out where the anonymous cards come from. The investigations are not always successful but we have a reasonable success rate."

Anusch Massarat, 23, received an anonymous card in the post last year. The front of the card was adorned with the words *Free Love* printed in the shape of a heart, while the back simply said *Holiday Love* in red handwriting. Ms Massarat, an assistant at a west London film production

company, picked the number of a private investigator out of the Yellow Pages and handed over the card and a list of possible suspects. She said: "I simply had to know. This could be the dream lover. If he is so sure he wants me then I should at least have a look at him. I thought, it must be someone I have been on

Valentine messages, pages 24 and 25

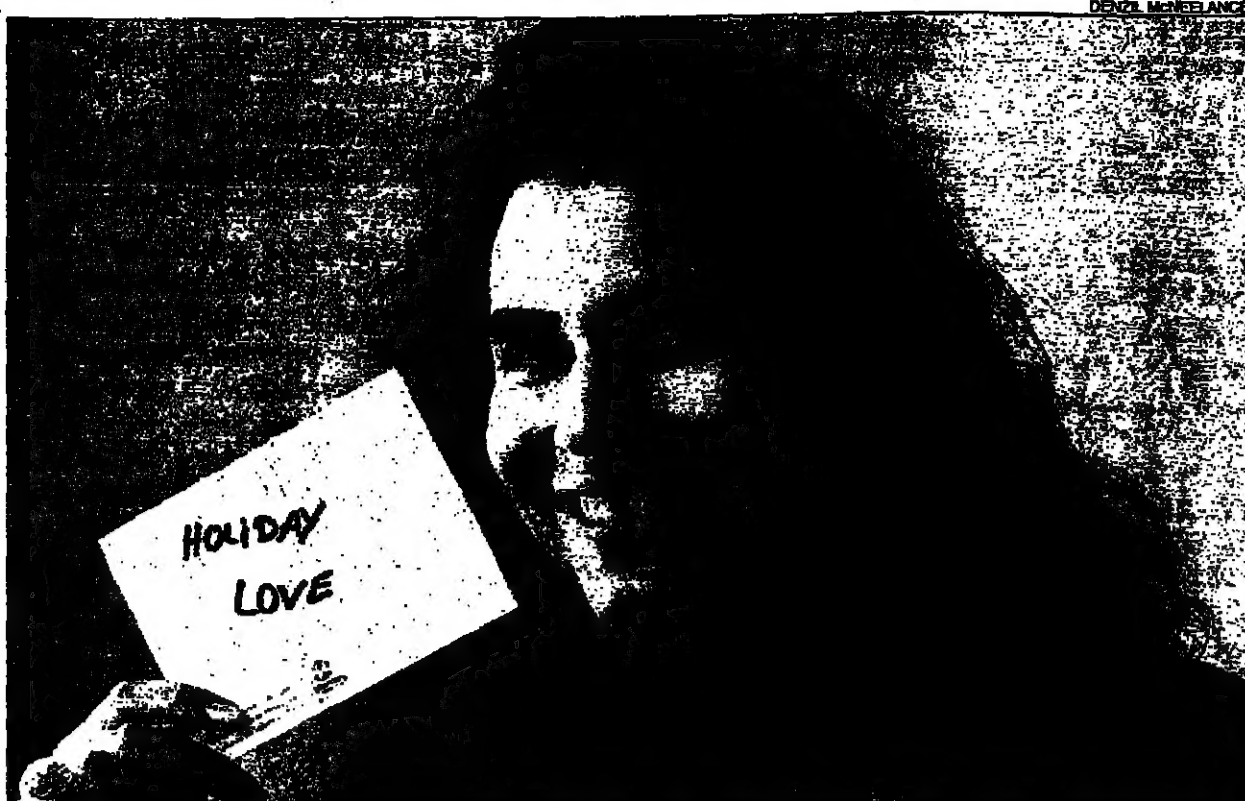
holiday with. That's a limited number of people."

A week later the detective sent the card back, saying that he could exclude most of the people on the list but was unable to pinpoint the sender. He said he had compared the suspect's addresses to the location of the post office that processed the card as indicated

by the postmark. He also researched the origin of the card and conducted a handwriting analysis on the basis of handwritten letters given to him by Ms Massarat. The investigation cost £200.

The Confidential Investigations agency in Kilburn, west London, said it used ex-servicemen in Valentine's card cases. They were trained in "discreet video surveillance and telephone recording". A brochure promises "comprehensive service and expert advice in strictest confidence".

Detectives say there is no age limit on the Valentines seeking their services. Robert Anker of A Able Investigations in Romford, east London, said he investigated a card sent to a 13-year-old Mormon girl. He said: "The girl received the card in the post but was so embarrassed she put it in her father's Bible. The card said how wonderful she was and how the sender wanted to



Anusch Massarat's search for the sender of the Valentine's card she received in the post was unsuccessful

spend the rest of his life with her. The sender said he wanted to meet her on Valentine's Day at McDonald's.

The mother then found the card in the Bible and suspected her husband was up to something because it was hidden in his Bible. She contacted us and handed us

family photographs of her husband. Two of our operatives went to McDonald's under cover at the suggested time. "And indeed, her husband turned up. But with him he had the girl's two grandfathers. As it turned out, the three had planned a special treat for the girl. The mother

was very relieved. Really, a very touching case."

A couple are due to marry at Ashford International Station today after collecting Eurostar vouchers in *The Times*. Yvonne McMeel, 44, and Barry Cooke, 50, will spend their honeymoon in Paris after arriving by train.

The ceremony in the station's VIP lounge will be the first wedding to have been held there. Eurostar staff will act as witnesses for the couple, who come from Watford. Ms McMeel said: "We came to see the terminal and fell in love with it. We always wanted a honeymoon in Paris."

Families send cards to their pet loves

AN INCREASING number of people are sending Valentine cards to their pets (Alan Hamilton writes). The Plain English Campaign found that dogs and horses won most hearts.

Christie Maher, director of the campaign, said that staff interviewed customers outside card shops to discover buying patterns. "Many people said they had bought a card for their pet. We thought they were using an affectionate term for their partner. In fact they were referring to their animals." Most were with families, and often accompanied by young children.

"We have known for several years that people send Christmas and birthday cards to their animals, but sending Valentines is a new trend," said Ms Maher, who lives on a Derbyshire smallholding with five dogs, 45 cats and several cows. She has never sent a card to any of them.

The campaign's award for the "yuckiest" verse went to: "One day Cupid spotted me and found it in his heart. To pull his little bowstrings back and shot me with his dart."

Bashful snuggles up to babytalk

By ALAN HAMILTON

BABYCAKES is aiming Cupid's arrow at Harry the Hunksy Money, and Mr Happy Pants is on the prowl again. Beeblet Bunny has stuck his head above the parapet. Woofie has designs on Diddly Wumps, and that perpetually lovesick pair, Woosie Woopots and Fluffy Wuffkins, are on the loose.

Watch out, Breathless of Brompton. It is St Valentine's Day, that one occasion of the year when a bashful nation is permitted to apply the language of the nursery to the intentions of the boudoir, and to do so in public.

Today two entire pages of *The Times* are surrendered to readers in the name of love, whether true, unrequited or merely wishful.

If there is a message in this year's messages, it is that romance is not confined to the early stages of the mating game, but can still blossom, like Christmas roses, long after the first summer of passion is past.

Many of today's crop speak of love in its late autumn: "Fifty not out thanks to you", "To my wife and Valentine of 51 years with grateful thanks", "Our silver years together have been divine".

What lasting partnership created: "My Forties Valentine, fifty years on you're mine?" And is there a late

flowering of passion behind: "Thank you for lighting the evening of my life?"

Babycakes and Cuddle Puppy Beagle Woof may still want to huggle and pesh, but there is an older, wiser thought behind Norbert's message to Agnes: "We never thought of divorce, but often of murder."

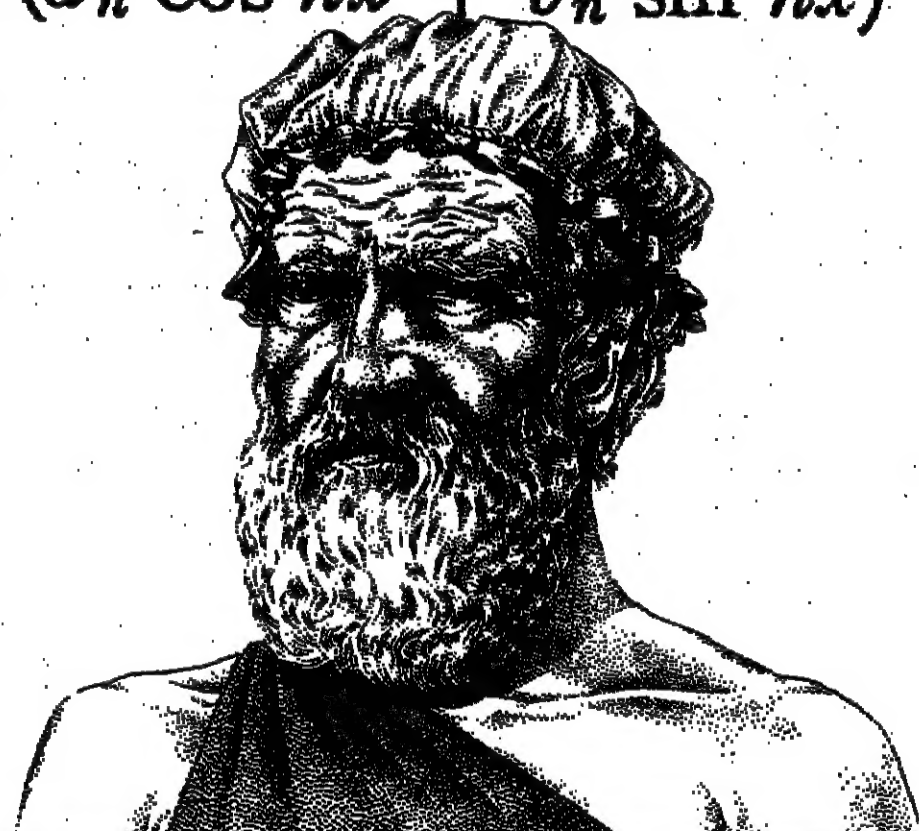
If anything, baby language is in decline this year, with a bit less of the humpty-dumplings and woogly-woggies, and a great many messages are, as tradition demands, unsigned.

Several would-be suitors quote Robert Burns, as romantic a poet as ever scribbled a line, provided you can penetrate the 18th century Ayrshire dialect. Others are philosophers in their own right, like the one who states baldly: "Life without you is like a broken pencil - pointless."

One message buried deep in today's columns is especially down-to-earth, and will give comfort to all who pick up this newspaper, only to remember they have forgotten the token of love that was expected with the morning tea: "Hey there Georgie girl the future is ours: my love is constant so boggle the flowers."

There is, after all, always this evening.

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Formal complaint over investigation follows inquest verdict on black youth attacked by five whites

Lawrence family to sue men cleared of racist murder

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE PARENTS of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager murdered at a bus stop, were last night planning a civil action for damages against the five white men originally accused of killing him.

Lawyers for the Lawrence family made the announcement after the jury at the inquest into his stabbing ruled unanimously that he had been unlawfully killed in a "completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths".

Three of the men accused of the murder in a private prosecution brought by the family were acquitted at the Old Bailey last year. Neil Acourt, 21, Luke Knight, 20, and Gary Dobson, 21, all unemployed, from southeast London, were acquitted on the direction of Mr Justice Curtis. Two others, Jamie Acourt, 19, and David Norris, 20, walked free at committal proceedings in December 1993. Under the common law privilege of silence, all five declined to answer questions that they believed might incriminate them when called to give evidence during

the inquest at Southwark Coroner's Court.

The Lawrence family will also lodge a formal complaint about the conduct of the Metropolitan Police in the hours after the murder on the night of April 22, 1993, as Mr Lawrence, 18, waited in Eltham, southeast London, for a bus home. The inquest was told that officers failed to make immediate house-to-house inquiries in the street along which his attackers fled, losing valuable time.

The first detectives on the scene also failed to use important criminal intelligence data pinpointing families in the area already under investigation for racial harassment. It was admitted in court that the office at Plumstead police station where intelligence was collated was locked at night and information was therefore unavailable.

The jury of six men and four women took 30 minutes to reach their verdict at the end of the four-day resumed inquest. Mr Lawrence's mother, Doreen, 44, who collapsed weeping into the arms of members of her family, said later: "Right from the start on the night our son was murdered, it seemed that in the



Cheryl Soley, Stephen Lawrence's aunt, reading a statement outside the coroner's court after the verdict.

minds of the police, he was only a black boy — why bother? No-one can convince me otherwise."

She added that during the inquest, "what was coming across for me was that none of the officers saw it fit to go round to known suspects' homes even just to eliminate them from the inquiry."

After the verdict Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, called for a review of local police intelligence systems which, he said, should store information

on criminal groups, their addresses and weaponry, and which should be available 24 hours a day to all stations.

He said: "What we have established in this inquest is that a group of white youths killed a young man in cold blood and for no other reason. It would appear, then, that the colour of his skin was black. This was not a fight between men which had ended in a death. This was an horrific crime, totally unprovoked, in which a group of cowardly

young men attacked an unsuspecting, innocent youth and which resulted in him bleeding to death." Sir Montague appealed for calm in the community and appealed for witnesses to come forward.

Imran Khan, the Lawrence family's solicitor, said: "We are strongly considering taking further legal action through the courts and we hope that during those proceedings nobody can possibly claim any sort of privilege of silence. Civil action will be

against those individuals we consider might have been responsible in some way for the death of Stephen Lawrence."

Mr Khan said a formal complaint would be lodged with the Police Complaints Authority against officers who were in charge of the murder investigation on the night of the murder. "If the PCA said there were officers who were negligent in their duties, then we would proceed with civil action against them."

Police defend inquiry

By LIN JENKINS

THE Metropolitan Police insisted yesterday that its officers had done everything they could from the beginning of the investigation.

Ian Johnston, Assistant Commissioner, said: "It is a matter of deep regret to me and to the officers involved in this terrible murder that we have not been able to see the murderers successfully prosecuted."

He said Mrs Lawrence had his deepest sympathy but added: "I believe right from the start we did all we could. She is someone who has had her son taken away by a group of racist murderers, but she has a perspective on this case which I do not share." He added that the case remained open.

Criticism that police were slow to begin house-to-house inquiries, failed to act on an anonymous tip and unnecessarily investigated Stephen's background was unfounded, he said. It was routine to look into the circumstances of a victim and officers could not make arrests on an anonymous tip, although they had begun a surveillance operation as a result of it.

Mr Johnston said: "The family are entitled to expect Stephen's killers to be brought to justice, but this can only be done if the necessary evidence is found. Sadly, in this case, it was not, but that was not because we did not try."



Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said Stephen Lawrence was killed "just because he was black"



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Health risk in contact lens cases

Manufacturers of contact lens solutions are being asked to warn customers not to wash their lens cases in tap water, because research has shown that it can lead to a rare disease, acanthamoeba keratitis, in which the eye is eaten away by infection. The storage cases can be washed with sterile solutions or boiled water. The Medicines Control Agency is asking manufacturers to modify their labelling.

Boy dies in fall

A boy has died after jumping down a flight of seven steps after assembly at Hillfield School, Hornsey, north London. Ashley Service, 16, hit his head on a ceiling lintel then fell, striking his head on the bottom step.

Opera victory

Open-air opera performances at the Jacobean manor house of Leonard Ingram in Garlington, Oxfordshire, against which villagers have campaigned, were given the go-ahead for seven years by the Environment Department.

Scout power

British Energy is joining the AA, Walls and Vauxhall in sponsoring the Scout Association. It will pay £12,000 a year to sponsor the new badge in public relations proficiency, for which 20,000 Scouts are expected to try.

Murder charge

A man accused of battering a neighbour's four-year-old son to death with a hammer was remanded in custody at Glasgow Sheriff Court. James Reid, 59, of Castlemilk, is charged with murdering James Ward.

Home to roost

Planners have refused to allow a Grade II listed dovecote to become a home for people. The dovecote, at Kemerton, near Tewkesbury, once housed 400 birds. The owners were ordered to return it to the original state.

One good turn

Charity workers have been given stolen bicycles by Portsmouth police. The three cycles will be used by Age Concern volunteers, who do chores for elderly people, in the hope that their owners will see and reclaim them.

Big rise in public disorder revealed

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BIG increase in public disorder is to be disclosed by Labour today. The number of incidents such as unacceptable noise from neighbours, rowdy behaviour by children and drunkenness rose in 20 police areas from 1.5 million to 1.8 million over three years, according to statistics compiled by the Government.

The figures were drawn from almost half of the 43 forces in England and Wales, including Greater Manchester, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire and the Metropolitan Police.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, will disclose the rise in a speech outlining Labour's "zero tolerance" policy on antisocial behaviour in public places.

At the launch of a neighbourhood anti-licence strategy in his Blackburn constituency, Mr Straw will set out Labour's "three Rs"

approach to curbing disorder. Respect, responsibility and revival comprise our strategy for zero tolerance. The criminal justice system today, especially the youth justice system, is indulgent of much antisocial behaviour, especially on the streets and in public places.

Under Labour's proposals, a senior police officer or a local authority would be able to apply for a community safety order that could impose a curfew on teenage tearaways, exclude people from certain areas or ban them from approaching named individuals.

Anyone breaching the order would face imprisonment or, if they were aged under 18, a community sentence. Parents of young troublemakers could be ordered to attend counselling or guidance sessions.

The disorder statistics for 1993 to 1996 were provided by police forces to help the Environment Department to set the size of their cash grant.

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Breast cancer death toll falls as awareness grows

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DEATHS from breast cancer are falling among women under 65 because tumours are being spotted earlier, a study has found.

The fall, which is occurring across the country despite a rise in cases, began in the early 1990s after more than two decades in which it had risen to the highest in the world. Scientists had suggested that new treatments, especially the introduction of the hormonal drug tamoxifen, were prolonging lives.

However, a study of more than 8,000 breast cancer pa-

tients in East Anglia has found that the earlier detection of tumours since the mid-1980s and their smaller size at diagnosis accounts for most of the improvement in survival. Although the number of cases rose between 1982-85 and 1986-89 by around 18 per cent, deaths in the under-65s fell by almost 10 per cent.

Diane Stockton and colleagues from the East Anglian Cancer Intelligence Unit at the University of Cambridge say in the *British Medical Journal* that greater awareness among women and their doc-

tors is the most likely explanation of earlier diagnosis.

This success in detecting cancers is not attributable to breast screening: the study took place before screening was widely introduced in the region after 1989.

The study showed a 50 per cent increase between the two periods it covered in women being diagnosed with early stage breast cancer, and earlier diagnosis increases the chances of survival.

However, the chances of survival with early stage cancer did not improve in women

aged 50-64, suggesting that the use of tamoxifen had no effect. A study in the Netherlands also found no improvement in survival after the wider use of treatments.

Ms Stockton said that only 40 per cent of women in the study with early stage cancer were treated with tamoxifen compared with 90 per cent now. "Since 1989, there have been many changes in treatment with more extensive use of tamoxifen, more use of adjuvant chemotherapy and more referrals to specialist cancer centres which should improve survival further," she said.

Patients with cancer of the stomach and gullet may wait up to 31 years for diagnosis, although the average is 17 weeks - reducing their chances of survival. The delays occur because GPs do not refer promptly and hospitals do not investigate urgently, a study of 115 patients at Leeds General Infirmary showed.

Most people survive the cancers if they are caught early, the researchers say in the *British Medical Journal*.

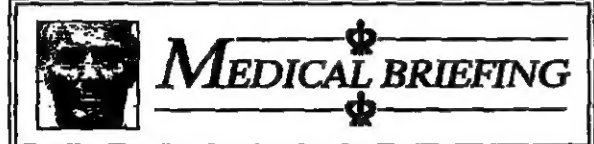
Keeping a pet is more important to many people than the allergy symptoms they cause. A Canadian study of 341 people diagnosed with chronic allergy to cats and dogs found only one in five followed medical advice to get rid of their pet. Even when the animal died, three quarters of the patients replaced it with another pet.

Specialist experience is vital

THE report of the East Anglian survey on breast cancer emphasises the importance of awareness among patients and doctors. Treatment of malignant disease in the breast was improving, and there is now an increasing understanding that specialisation in cancer surgery by medical staff gives patients a better chance.

A course at the Royal College of Surgeons this week has stressed that specialised training will enable a surgeon not only to wield his scalpel with greater skill, but to have a greater understanding of the radiotherapy and chemotherapy prescribed by the multi-disciplinary team who work together in the best breast cancer units.

Dr Audrey Tucker, for a



great many years a consultant radiologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and the doyenne of the British doctors who have been involved in breast screening, said yesterday: "Regular mammographs undertaken by staff, whether doctors, radiographers or nurses, who have been thoroughly trained and are experienced, will pick up small tumours at a time when even acclimated specialists may miss them on clinical examination."

"The earlier tumours are

found, the greater the chance of survival."

One of Britain's largest employers of women encourages them very firmly to attend for regular screening, and have mammographs (breast X-rays) from the age of 40.

Among women who have had breast cancer detected as a result of this practised scheme, nine out of ten are still alive 20 years later.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



Molly responding to its owners hand command to sit. The dog first had to be trained to look at humans regularly

By MICHAEL HORNBY

MOLLY, a deaf dalmatian, is being taught to respond to sign language. The dog was born with a defect that affects between 7 and 8 per cent of its breed: normally such dogs are put down within a few weeks as it is difficult fully to socialise them.

However, Molly's breeder found a home for the puppy with Amanda and Simon Price and their three daughters in Wandsworth, south-west London. "We were told she would need special care, but we decided to buy her," Mrs Price said.

With the help of Steve Collis, a dog psychologist with the Blue Cross animal

Deaf dog learns sign language

charity, the Prices are teaching Molly, now two, to recognise hand and arm signals as a substitute for verbal commands. "Already she obeys simple orders such as 'come', 'stay' and 'sit'," Mrs Price said. "If she is only a few yards away a slight movement with a finger is enough, but if she is further off more vigorous gestures with the whole hand or arm are needed."

The family had been warned that Molly might be

trysted and let off the lead just like a hearing dog.

So far Molly has ventured no further than the neighbouring park where she trails an 8ft canvas strap attached by a heavy metal clasp to her collar. "If she looks like taking off, we can stamp on the strap and restrain her," Mrs Price said.

James Wood, head of the Animal Health Trust's epidemiology unit, said: "The condition appears to be associated with a deficiency in the melanocytes, the cells that deliver pigment to skin and hair. Other white-haired dogs also have a history of hearing difficulties. Dalmatians are born completely white and develop their spots later."

Co-op's change of heart freezes the price of love

By ROBIN YOUNG

VALENTINE'S DAY is an opportunity for shops to increase the price of flowers and chocolates, 80 per cent of adults told a survey by the Co-op (CWS Retail). As a result the chain has frozen the price of flowers and boxed chocolates until tomorrow. Other supermarkets are continuing offers of heart-shaped specialities, in some cases until next Tuesday, so forgetful lovers still have a chance to make amends.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: diced turkey thigh £2.53 per kg, rump steak £7.49 per kg, baby carrots 200g for 99p, oranges ten for 99p, strawberries 227g for 99p, passion fruit two for 20p.
Bodgans: West Country topside/silver-side 450g for £4.99 per kg, chicken quarters 550g for £1.29, Cumberland pork sausages 454g for £1.09, granary baps four for 49p, white seedless grapes 79p a lb.
Co-op (CWS): Freedom Foods chicken £2.69 per kg, deep pan pepperoni pizza 380g for £1.32.

asparagus 250g for £1.02, Haggis-Dens liver cream 500ml for £2.99, Harrogate brie and asparagus puff pastry hearts £3.99 each, cider 1.5 litre for £1.99, broccoli 500g for 69p, clove/honey & mustard ham on the bone 100g for £1.59, chicken korra 100g for £1.79.
Iceland: Mexican bean and cheese melts four for 99p, battered cod steaks six for £2.75, deep fryer ham and pineapple pizza £1.49, extra mature cheddar 500g for £2.99, upside-down apple pudding 330g for 99p.
Kwik Save: Birds' Eye chicken burgers four for 99p, whole/semi-skimmed milk 1.8 for £1.19, Stouffer instant potato 126g for 47p, mince 12 for 59p.
Marks & Spencer: prepared pork £3.99 per kg, twin pack lemon chicken two x 340g for £4.98, creamy potato gratin 454g for £1.49, strawberries 400g for £2.49, Morrisons: frying steak/topside/silver-side £1.99 a lb, sirloin £3.99 a lb, oysters 35p each or £3.78 a lb, cod fillet £1.89 a lb, parsnips 35p a lb, lemons six for 49p, cantaloupe melon 99p each.
Safeway: rump steak £7.69 per kg, skinless chicken fillets 567g for £3.99, ham and pineapple thin & crispy pizza 345g for £1.49, frozen breaded haddock portions 600g for £1.99, broccoli 500g for 69p.
Sainsbury's: fresh pork Valentine Steak £6.19 per kg, fresh beef rib roast £4.38 per kg, broccoli 42p a lb, tomatoes 35p a lb, Thai green chicken curry 300g for £2.29, Sainsbury's: sirloin steak £1.89 a lb, smoked haddock fillet £1.69 a lb, fresh turbot £2.18 per kg, peeled prawns 250g for £1.89, Marie Piper potatoes 2.5kg for 99p, Little Gem lettuce three for 99p, broccoli 42p a lb, sugar snap peas 200g for £1.09, root ginger 85g for 35p, medium fresh eggs 12 for 99p.
Tesco: sirloin steak £6.46 per kg, half leg of lamb £5.79 per kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, rainbow trout £1.57 a lb, golden delicious apples 38p a lb, conference pears 39p a lb.
Waitrose: crispy Peking duck 330g for £3.99, Farmhouse pork sausages 454g for £1.59, pork spare ribs £2.29 a lb, spinach 99p a lb, broccoli 37p for 45p, new potatoes 29p a lb, organic onions 500g for 45p, dwarf corn 250g for £1.49, English Jonagold apples 49p a lb.

BBC plans catch-up channel for soap fans

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FANS of the BBC soap opera *EastEnders* need never worry again about missing an episode. The corporation announced yesterday that it is launching a "catch-up" channel to enable viewers to keep up to date with major dramas. The new channel, provisionally entitled BBC Inform, will also provide profiles of the soap stars and actors. It is expected to include educational information on issues, such as drug taking or incest, which occur in plots.

Will Wyan, chief executive of BBC Broadcasting, said that BBC Inform would be part of the new digital television service launched next year and available free to viewers who have a digital set-top decoder box or a digital television set.

He said it aimed to enhance the strength and breadth of the BBC's new services. "The BBC can use new technology creatively to bring licence fee payers more channels, improved reception and better quality," he said.

Initially, BBC Inform is expected to provide updates in text form. The service will be far more sophisticated than the information already available on CeeFax and is expected to be illustrated with graphics. Live action clips may be included later.

Reunions of BBC1 and BBC2 programmes will be available on another digital channel, BBC Choice, broadcasting the week's highlights.

Television, page 51

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Bishop gives up Bible for Lent to read the Koran

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CHURCH of England bishop has given up the Bible for Lent. The Bishop of Jarrow, Dr Alan Smithson is reading the Koran instead.

Apart from looking at St John's Gospel, traditionally read by Christians during the 40 days of Lent, Dr Smithson will not study his Bible until Easter. He normally spends two hours a day consulting it and preparing notes for sermons and lectures in addition to readings during services.

He intends to read 20 pages of the Koran each day and finish it by Good Friday. "I have never read the Koran before and when I start on an expedition I have to start with an open mind," he said yesterday. "When it is over I hope I will have found great spiritual truths and insights."

He hopes that by giving up the Bible and looking instead at Islam's most holy book it will make him "more understanding, more compassionate and more fully human". When he was younger his traditional Lenten sacrifice to mark Christ's fasting in the wilderness was giving up treats like sweets, Dr Smith-

son said. Later he tried to improve his personal relationships by things such as being more patient.

At his home in Pitington, Co Durham, the bishop said: "I see Lent as a time to focus on essentials in your life and faith and pay less attention to distractions and diversions. During Lent by giving up something, in my case reading the Bible, I will make the extra time."

"I am passionately concerned that we help the church to move into a wider scene where we are not just pre-occupied with Christian issues but understand other faiths, not as rivals, but as fellow travellers. The Western world needs to learn from Islam."

"There are qualities of holiness and commitment that the faithful Muslim shows that the western world can learn from. If only all Christians would take seriously the beliefs of other traditions and religions we would be all the better for it."

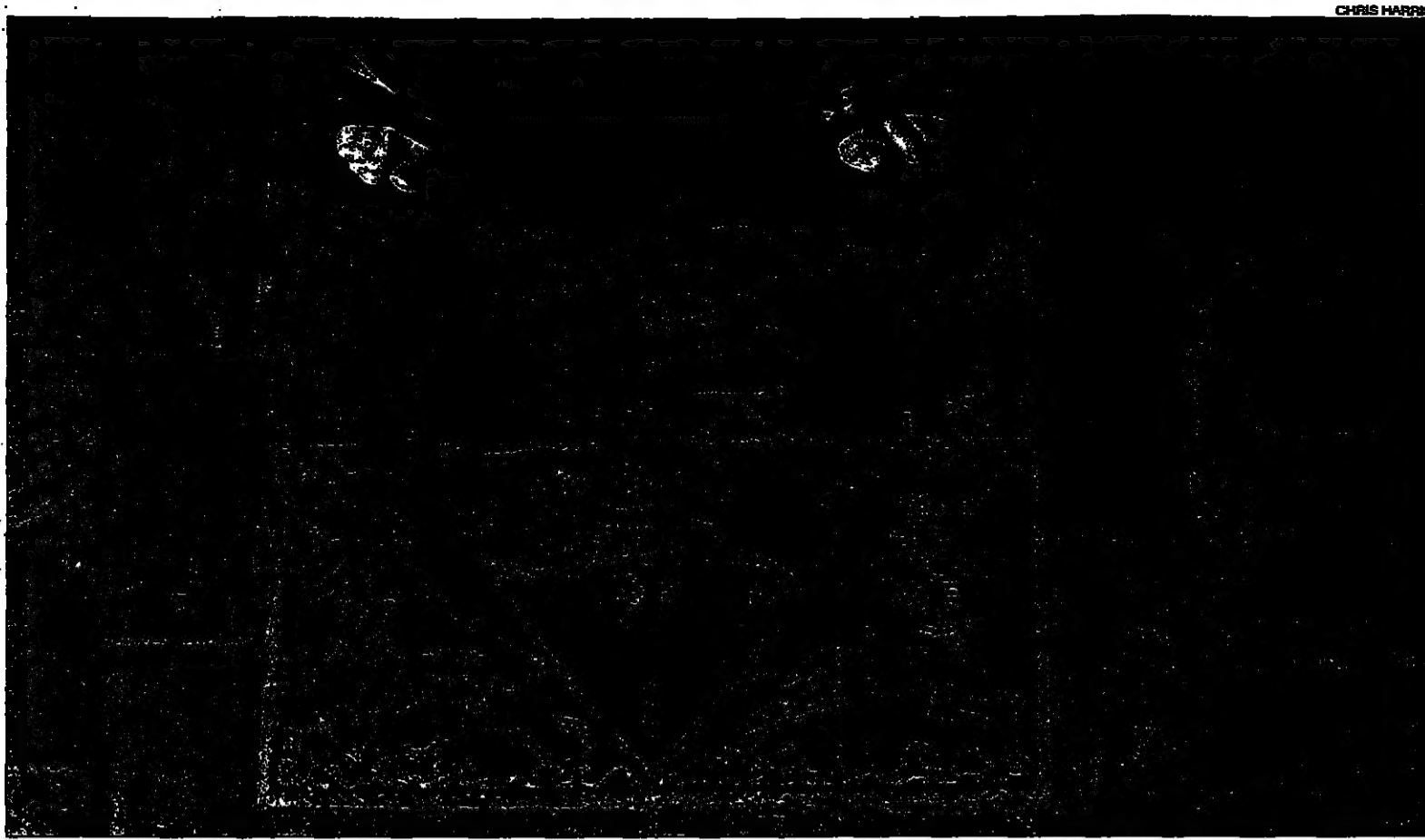
"Like most people who go travelling I will be glad to get home. When Easter comes I will feel it has been a good expedition through the Koran, but it will be good to get back to the Bible."

His decision was criticised by the Rev George Curry, a traditionalist vicar working in the West End of Newcastle upon Tyne. He said: "We should certainly not be giving up the Bible for Lent. It is a crass suggestion to give it up, even if it is just in part."

To give up the Bible for Lent is the most bizarre suggestion anyone could seriously make. Unfortunately we are living in a generation in which church leaders are giving the impression that all religions lead to God. We can never read the Bible enough or know it too well."



Dr Smithson: seeking great spiritual truths



A monk stands on medieval tiles in the Chapter House at Westminster Abbey. They are to be restored by English Heritage at a cost of £10,000

Becket's relics inspire Canterbury trails

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

RELICS of St Thomas à Becket are to go on display at Canterbury Cathedral as part of national celebrations to mark the 14th centenary of St Augustine's arrival in Britain.

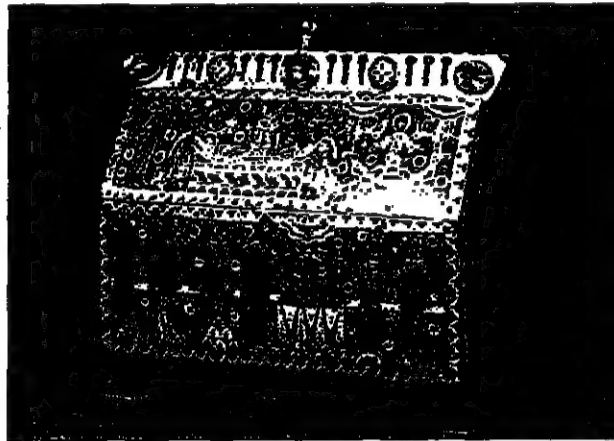
The fragments of bone and brain tissue, together with a shirt, will be the first relics to go on display in the 11th-century cathedral since the Reformation. Although expected to arouse Protestant protest, the relics of St Thomas, who was murdered in the cathedral by four knights of King Henry II in 1170, are thought likely to attract hundreds if not thousands of new pilgrims to Canterbury this summer.

On loan from the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, they have been carbon dated and are thought to be genuine. They will go on show in their own glass-fronted casket alongside the Becket Chasse, the gold and enamel casket acquired re-

cently for the nation by the Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Heritage Memorial Fund for £3.8 million, in an appeal supported by *The Times*.

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, is also loaning Becket's mitre from Westminster Cathedral. The exhibition, which runs from April to October, is a central feature of a series of events organised by the Church of England, other denominations and English Heritage.

The anniversary of the arrival of St Augustine, sent from Rome by Pope Gregory I to convert Britain to Christianity after the invasion of the heathen Anglo-Saxons, is also behind an English Heritage conservation programme announced yesterday, marking 1997 as the year of "England's Christian Heritage". More than 100 of English Heritage's historic



The Becket chasse will go on display with the relics

properties, as well as other religious sites, are featured on a free souvenir map which depicts 200 church and other ecclesiastical buildings.

In May, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will open a £1 million museum built by English Heritage among the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey in Can-

terbury, which St Augustine founded and where he was first buried.

English Heritage also announced a £10,000 restoration project to clean, conserve and protect the medieval tiles of the floor of the Chapter House at Westminster Abbey in London, the meeting place of Henry II's "great council"

from which Parliament evolved.

The celebrations, which also commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columba, will include a pilgrimage tracing the footsteps of Augustine and Columba, from Rome to Canterbury and then on to Londonderry.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, welcomed the Church's co-operation with English Heritage. "I feel that the church is stirring a bit," he said. "There is a spirit about, a breeze stirring in the trees. There is a sort of unstodginess about."

However, the Rev David Streeter, director of the Church Society, a leading Protestant body, warned pilgrims against attributing miraculous powers to Becket's relics. "Worship of relics is a well outdated medieval superstition. I urge people to go and look at the relics as individual historical artefacts, but to make them objects of worship is ludicrous and idolatrous."

Minister told to give up part-time NHS post

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH of Scotland minister has been told by his presbytery that he is involved in too many good works. They want him to give up his part-time job as chairman of an NHS trust to concentrate on pastoral duties.

The Rev Roderick Campbell, full-time minister at Mearns Parish Kirk in Glasgow, was appointed chairman of the Victoria Infirmary NHS Trust by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, last month.

He is also padre to the Territorial Army, a member of Greater Glasgow Health Board, and a member of the Government-appointed committee tackling drug abuse in Scotland.

Mr Campbell, 53, accepted the two-day-a-week NHS Trust job, which has a salary of £20,000, without consulting the Church. This week he was ordered by Glasgow Presbytery to give up the job after the presbytery, which is made up of practising and retired ministers, voted 218 to 47 against his keeping it. Mr Campbell plans to appeal to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In the meantime, he will remain chairman of the trust.

Prior to the vote, a delegation from the Glasgow Presbytery visited Mr Campbell's parish to assess the mood of the congregation. Some said that Mr Campbell was extremely hard working, others that they were not getting the attention they deserved.

Mr Campbell was not available for comment yesterday. The Rev Sandy McDonald, general secretary of the Church of Scotland's board of ministry, said: "Mr Campbell is one of our most able ministers, but I think the concern was the amount of work he would be taking on with this job. The issue is whether there would be enough time left to do the job he was called to do."

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مکتبہ ازمنہ لاهور

Brown promises £3bn to combat underclass danger

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN committed a Labour government yesterday to a £3 billion fight against unemployment, expressing fears that Britain was in danger of developing an American-style "underclass".

Delivering Labour's largest, most specific and probably last spending pledge before the general election, the Shadow Chancellor said the programme to help the young and long-term unemployed would be "comfortably" financed by a windfall tax on the excess profits of privatised utilities.

The measures — including a £50 weekly tax rebate for firms that hire young people and £75 a week for those that take on the long-term unemployed — would be Labour's "new deal", the first building block of a new welfare state for the 1990s. They would help tens of thousands who felt part of an "abandoned and forgotten generation".

He said that a fifth term of Tory government would risk taking the country "down the road of urban America, with no-work no-go inner-city areas on the one hand and perimeter fences with security guards on the other".

Mr Brown said that the windfall tax, which has been judged legal by independent experts, would be in Labour's first Budget within weeks of an election victory. The jobs programme would be in operation by the autumn. Al-

though he has declined to say publicly how much the levy would raise, sources close to him are hinting at a figure of more than £5 billion. If it raises more than the £3 billion committed yesterday, he will use it to expand "welfare-to-work" measures.

He warned the utilities that they would not be able to raise the money by increasing prices but refused Tory demands to say which companies would have to pay. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, accused him of being irresponsible.

In a BBC Radio interview, Mr Brown said that every privatised utility would be considered. Whether they were covered would be determined by "the extent of their monopoly position, the weakness or not of the regulatory regime, and the value of the assets on the point of sale".

Last night, delivering a lecture in memory of the former Labour Cabinet minister Anthony Crosland, Mr Brown said that one working-age family in five had no one earning a wage and in some inner cities, including London and Glasgow, there were constituencies where up to 35 per cent of working-age families had nobody in employment.

"A far-reaching modernisation of the welfare state is essential and it must start with an assault on youth unemployment and long-term un-

employment among men and women," he said. "When I see the levels of worklessness, particularly youth unemployment, in our inner cities I fear for what will happen to our country. We face a rising tide of alienation among disenfranchised young people, not simply unemployed but second generation unemployed who have no experience of work in their family."

He said that Labour would help people from welfare to work, but the Tories would do nothing, "threatening the growth of a fifth-term underclass marginalised from the rest of society".

Under Mr Brown's plans young people will be offered the option of employment in a private company, community organisation, or a new environmental task force. A fourth option will be full-time training, but he said there would be no option of remaining permanently on full benefit.



New Labour is hardly the future Crosland envisaged

Gordon Brown yesterday succumbed to the occupational disease of his trade, ancestor approval. To assert legitimacy for current views, politicians claim the authority of their predecessors. The result is usually an unconvincing intellectual contortion in which the past is rewritten to justify the present.

Tories like to invoke Peel, Disraeli (now out of fashion), Salisbury (the latest "in" icon), Baldwin (a favourite of John Major), Macmillan (bizarrely cited last week by Michael Portillo) and, of course, Margaret Thatcher. On the Labour side, Bevan is a must for the old Left. Bevin for robust spokesmen of the workers; Attlee for solid men of government; Gaitskell for social democrats; but Wilson, alas, for almost no one yet.

The danger is of indulging in a game of what if: what would x or y have said if they had still been alive now? No one knows whether they would have altered their views. Often they might not, as Barbara Castle shows. Mr Brown fell into this trap last night when delivering the Anthony Crosland memorial lecture on the 20th anniversary

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ry of his death. Crosland was remarkable more perhaps for his personality and writings than for his ministerial achievements. *The Future of Socialism*, published in 1956, inspired a generation of democratic socialists. But many of its arguments about economic growth and the role of the State and markets have been contradicted by events.

Mr Brown sought to revive Crosland's central theme of equality. He acknowledged differences over Crosland's emphasis on social and economic equality as opposed to equality in political power. But the contrast is more fundamental. Mr Brown's version of equality is completely different, as shown by his differences with Roy Hattersley, the most prominent claimant to the Crosland mantle. The Crosland-Hattersley view tilts towards equality of outcome, underpinning their support for comprehensive schools. Mr Brown regards equality of outcome as "neither desirable nor feasible" and stresses "the equal right to realise poten-

tial", the theme of his proposals for employment and education opportunity for all throughout life.

He outlined plans to spend £3 billion over the course of a Parliament from the windfall levy on the utilities to help to put young and long-term unemployed people back to work. The levy and the unemployment measures tend to be discussed together, when they are logically separate. The real point about the latter is less the novelty of the ideas, such as tax incentives for firms taking on the unemployed, pioneered on a small scale by the Government, but in the size of the incentives and the overall programme.

Perhaps his most revealing comment was when he argued that the real challenge for left-of-centre politicians was, like Crosland, to be "socialists and at the same time credible". Mr Brown wants to show that he is not only the "Iron Chancellor" in waiting but that he also has radical instincts. A Labour government could make a difference — though it would be along very different lines from what Crosland envisaged.

PETER RIDDELL

Utilities in line for windfall tax

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE Concise Oxford English Dictionary defines a public utility simply as an organisation supplying services such as water, gas and electricity to the community.

So Labour's proposed windfall tax might apply to most privatised businesses. Alternatively, it could fall only on the electricity, water and gas companies. It all depends on how Labour defines a utility.

This how the various companies might fare:

MOST LIKELY

All the regional electricity companies and water companies. These are monopolies and, with the exception of smaller water companies, have been sold by the Government to the City.

United Utilities: formed from the takeover of Norweb the electricity company by North West Water. Has been at the eye of the storm over boardroom incentives.

Northern Electric: handed out so much cash to shareholders to fight off a takeover it triggered a fresh regulatory price review. Shelled out £550 million in a successful defence against Trafalgar House and has since been bought by CE Electric of America.

Yorkshire Water: vilified for poor service during the drought of 1995 and for leaking one third of its water

supplies. Made £162 million profits last year and recently started a scheme to give back £145 million to shareholders.

PROBABLE

British Gas: from Monday will divide into two companies. The newly named BG will include the pipelines and international business, while Centrica will supply gas to homes and industry. Big doubts must hang over whether a windfall tax could be levied on Centrica. Its finances are weak from exposure to expensive take-or-pay contracts for gas supply and it will not pay a dividend initially.

The power generators are not utilities in that they do not supply a commodity. The companies will argue that they operate in a competitive environment. They are not regulated but National Power and PowerGen, the two largest generators, have both returned more than £1 billion each to investors.

BT: The company has functioned in a competitive environment for years and would argue strongly against inclusion in a utilities tax.

Neither British Airways nor BAA, the business that runs airports, is likely to have to pay. It would be difficult to describe an airline as a utility under anything but the broadest of definitions.

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Pyongyang demands return of dictator's aide as Seoul presses for his safe passage south

Chinese caught in Korean wrangle over defector

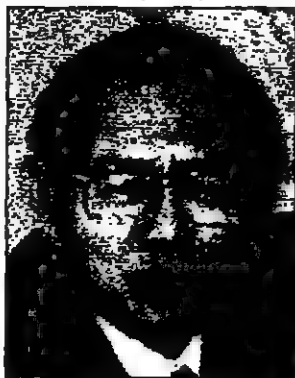
FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING
AND ROBERT WHYMAN
IN TOKYO

THE suspense surrounding the apparent defection of a North Korean political leader to a South Korean diplomatic compound in Beijing showed no sign of letting up yesterday as Seoul sent a delegation for talks with Chinese officials.

The Chinese Government seems uncertain how to proceed, given its long-standing political ties with the isolated Stalinist state and its more recent but strong trade links with South Korea.

North Korean diplomats sat in cars in a normally quiet tree-lined street near the South Korean consulate compound where Hwang Jang Yop, 72, a confidant of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, took refuge after arriving in a taxi with an aide on Wednesday.

Held back by Chinese police, correspondents saw South Korean officials leave the compound in cars, followed at speed by a vehicle containing North Koreans. Chang Moon Ik, a South Korean diplomat, said some North Koreans had tried to enter the compound on Wednesday night, but Chinese guards had prevented them



Hwang, fear of kidnap from doing so. "I think South Korea has kidnapped these two officials," said one of several North Koreans, waiting in the tower office block housing the South Korean Embassy. "The impossible has happened."

The willingness of the North Koreans in the past to resort to state terrorism gave rise to speculation that the Pyongyang officials — or security men — might try to kidnap Mr Hwang, the highest-ranking North Korean ever to defect, or even kill him, rather than have him taken to Seoul.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned correspondents who were issued with a statement by an official, Tang Guoqiang, urging calm in the

interests of peace and stability and saying that Beijing was investigating the situation.

"We had not been informed in advance of Hwang's transit through Beijing," said Mr Tang, referring to the passage of Mr Hwang from Japan, where he had been attending a seminar, through Beijing, where he was scheduled to catch a train for the North Korean capital.

China has an agreement with North Korea to return any North Korean who is here without authorisation or appropriate papers. However, Mr Hwang, as an old guard member of the central committee of the Workers' Party, presumably had valid papers.

In Seoul, Yoo Chong Hui, the South Korean Foreign Minister, said Mr Hwang had decided to defect because he could no longer tolerate social disparities in the North. But sources in Tokyo offered an alternative explanation.

Mr Yoo claimed that disenchanted with the Pyongyang regime motivated Mr Hwang to request asylum in the South Korean Embassy in Beijing. South Korea requested the Chinese authorities to grant the defector safe passage out of the country, while Pyongyang was reported to be pressing for Mr Hwang's



Beijing police bar access yesterday to the South Korean Embassy, where a North Korean official has apparently sought political asylum

return. The Foreign Minister, who is scheduled to take up the issue in talks with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, in Singapore today, said Mr Hwang had given a written statement explaining why he decided to flee. He was also applying for asylum in South Korea of his own free will, the minister said. Mr Hwang had spent two weeks

in Japan attending an international seminar before leaving on February 11 for Pyongyang via Beijing, where he made his move.

The visit was not a great success while in Tokyo he had asked to meet Japanese government and ruling party officials in the hope of securing more food aid to alleviate acute shortages in his impoverished homeland. However,

his request for talks was turned down by the Japanese side, worried about antagonising South Korea. Japanese sources also said that Mr Hwang may have failed to obtain desperately needed cash from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, many of whose members operate the ubiquitous

pachinko (pinball parlours). According to official records, the North Korean community in Japan sent \$600 million (£370 million) to North Korea in 1994, much of it derived from the pachinko business. This flow has dwindled, sources say, to about \$100 million, reflecting the North Korean communities' own economic problems as well as

its wavering loyalty to the Kim Jong Il regime. □ Washington: America is planning further emergency food aid for North Korea (Too Rhodes writes). It is certain to contribute to an appeal for \$41.6 million (£25 million) to food aid made this week by the World Food Programme.

Leading article, page 2

Hubble captured for refit in space

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Hubble Space Telescope was captured by the space shuttle *Discovery* for a refit yesterday after a two-day chase by the astronaut who first put it into orbit.

Steve Hawley, the 45-year-old astronomer who released the high-powered telescope into space in 1990, abandoned a desk job to rejoin NASA's astronaut corps for the mission to modernise the \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) observatory. Operating a 50ft robot arm on board the space shuttle, he snared the silvery 12-tonne telescope after a two-day pursuit 360 miles above Earth.

"I wish you could see the expression on Dr Stevie's face," Ken Bowersox, the shuttle commander, radioed back to mission control. "Looks like he just shook hands with an old friend."

Marc Garneau, at mission control, replied: "Congratulations to all of you for an outstanding rendezvous and a

great capture. We are looking forward to getting out there and starting to work on that telescope."

The observatory is to be fitted with two high-technology instruments, each of which is about the size of a large refrigerator.

An infra-red camera costing \$105 million will enable astronomers to see deeper into the universe than ever before, and a \$125 million spectrograph will aid the search for black holes.

The Hubble, which has travelled 996 million miles since being launched and circled the Earth more than 37,000 times, will also have some worn-out components replaced.

It is the first maintenance visit to the Hubble since a major mission to repair equipment which caused it to have blurred vision in 1993. The next maintenance trip is scheduled for 1999.

Spaniard killed in truckers' dispute

BY TUNKI VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID AND
MAIRE HENDERSON

TWO BRITISH lorry drivers were beaten up and a Spanish picket was crushed to death under a French lorry yesterday as the drivers' dispute, which has paralysed Spain, entered its second week.

Kim Butler, from Dover, was pulled from his cab on a motorway outside Bilbao and hit with a baseball bat by a picket. Mr Butler, who was not seriously injured, said the pickets also threatened to burn his lorry if he tried to continue his journey between Burgos and Bilbao.

In Burgos, in north-central Spain, Steve Crawley, 28, from Southend, was beaten by pickets after being stopped at a toll booth, where his windscreen was smashed.

About 600 foreign lorries have been forced into an industrial estate in the city, where many drivers have had their tyres slashed and windcreens broken. Strikers were also blocking motorways by hanging rocks from bridges at windscreen level. There were also unconfirmed reports last night that four foreign drivers, including one Briton, had been shot.

The death of the picket, Carmelo Austin Peña, occurred at Villaquirán de los Infantes, near Burgos, when a French trucker deliberately drove his vehicle into a massed rank of pickets. The driver, Joel Ferreira, was arrested 25 miles from the scene and has been charged with murder.

In a separate incident, a nine-year-old Portuguese girl was critically ill in a hospital in Badajoz, in Extremadura, after pickets attacked the lorry in which she was travelling with her father. She was struck in the face by a brick that was thrown through the windscreen.

Starting first in the north of the country, the strike has now spread to every corner of Spain. Called on February 6 by the union Fedetrans, it has brought chaos to the country's motorways and halted all traffic at Spain's borders with France and Portugal. Scores of British drivers have been immobilised for several days.

Rafael Ariza Salgado, the Minister of Development, has urged the strikers to "sit down at the table and talk". Yesterday, in a conciliatory gesture, he promised to subsidise the price of diesel by "at least" 10 pesetas (4p) per litre.

Rejecting the subsidy offer as "insufficient", Pedro Martín, chief spokesman for Fedetrans, vowed to "carry on the strike for as long as it takes to secure the union's full package of demands". In addition to cheaper fuel, the drivers want the age of compulsory retirement to be reduced to 60, and that of voluntary retirement with full benefits to be lowered to 55.

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مركزاً من راحل

Iran's elite guard insist Rushdie should be killed

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

ATTEMPTS by the Iranian Government to play down a fresh row over Salman Rushdie suffered a setback yesterday when the country's Revolutionary Guards insisted that the novelist be murdered. They also vowed to confront anyone attempting to dilute the fatwa or prevent its implementation.

The call, on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the late ayatollah Khomeini's decree, came a day after a shadowy Iranian religious foundation increased the bounty on Mr Rushdie's head by \$300,000 (£307,000) to \$2.5 million.

President Rafsanjani said his Government did not support the move and officials insisted that the foundation was independent.

The Revolutionary Guards, however, are an integral part of the Iranian establishment. They were formed on May 5, 1979, on the orders of Khomeini, who charged them with

safeguarding the Islamic revolution and its gains.

In a statement, published in the hardline *Jomhuri Islami* newspaper, the Revolutionary Guards vowed to confront anyone seeking to "dilute the fatwa or working to prevent it from being implemented". This was seen as a challenge to pragmatists such as President Rafsanjani. His Government

Tehran 'helping' in oil smuggling

Washington: Iran is offering safe passage to oil tankers smuggling fuel out of Iraq in violation of United Nations sanctions, according to Vice-Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of America's Fifth Fleet (Tom Rhodes writes). He said it was a sign of co-operation between the former enemies, but the main motive appeared to be profit.

insists the fatwa cannot be lifted, being a religious edict, but has said that assassins will not be sent to kill the author of *The Satanic Verses*.

This assurance was recently repeated by Ali Akbar Naregh-Nuri, the parliamentary Speaker widely expected to succeed Hojatolislam Rafsanjani after July's presidential elections.

Western diplomats in Tehran said that the author had become a pawn in a prolonged power struggle between moderates and hardliners which is expected to become more heated as the elections near.

□ Delhi: An Indian Muslim scholar, Ziauruddin Qadri, 59, is to publish a rejoinder in English to Mr Rushdie's controversial book. His *Final Verses*, already selling in Urdu, would be "a chapter-by-chapter rejoinder", he said. Qadri was quoted as saying: "It is ready but... experts are scrutinising every word."



DAVID AHMED/REUTERS

Christian demonstrators, restrained by ropes wound round their necks, are led away by Pakistani police yesterday after being arrested during a protest in Karachi against last week's attacks on Christians in Punjab province.

About 200 people were arrested after heavy teargas

190 Christians held in Karachi protest

shelling and baton charges to disperse thousands of demonstrators, witnesses said.

The Christians had assembled outside the Governor's house to voice anger over the burning last week of the churches and homes of

Christians in Khanewal and a nearby village, Shantinagar, about 280 miles south-west of Islamabad.

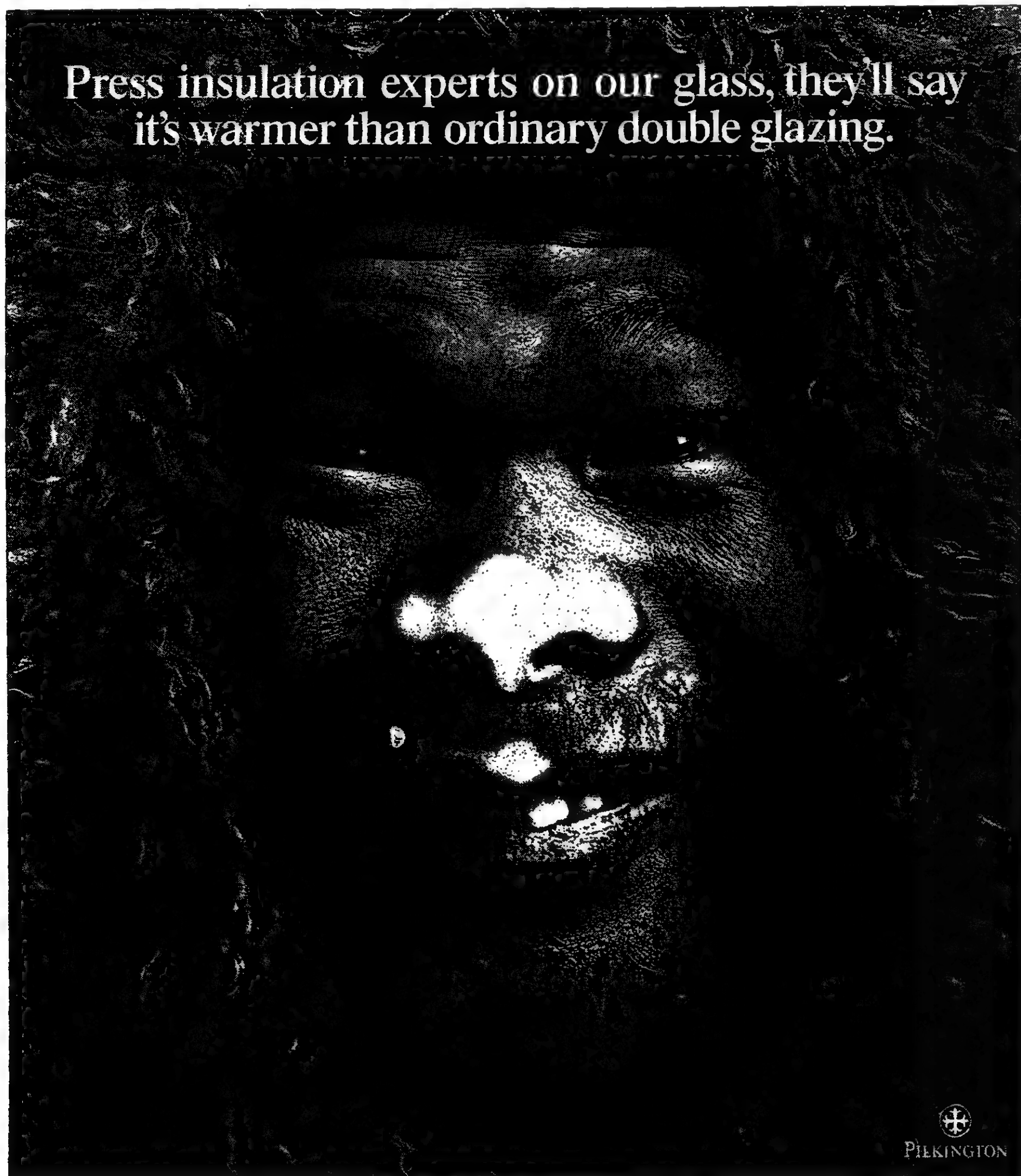
Police made the arrests after scuffles with emotional youths who chanted "Live and let others live", and

threw stones and brandished sticks, damaging parked vehicles. Earlier, in speeches at a rally, community leaders had urged people to protect their holy places.

Around 250,000 Christians live in Karachi and Chris-

tians account for 3 per cent of Pakistan's Muslim-dominated population of 130 million. The February 6 rioting in Khanewal was sparked by allegations that crumpled pages from the Koran and pieces of paper bearing insulting remarks against the Prophet had been thrown into a mosque.

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Indian police blind suspected gamblers with chilli powder

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SEVEN men accused of illegal gambling and other minor offences have been blinded by Indian police who rubbed a chilli powder concoction into their eyes to extract confessions. It is one of the most horrific police atrocities since the "Bhagalpur blindings" a decade ago, when criminals had their eyes gouged out with bicycle spokes to halt a crime wave.

Doctors are treating the men in hospital, but say it will be a month before the permanent damage to their eyesight can be assessed. Police used a spiced version of a herbal preparation, meant for treating muscular pain, to torture the men, who were earlier ordered to strip and beat each other.

Police in India have a wretched reputation: with rare exceptions, the lower ranks are corrupt and abusive.

The case came to light after a doctor made public a letter he had sent to the local police chief in Rajkot, in the western state of Gujarat, complaining about what he called "cruel, inhuman and bizarre" conduct.

Lawyers in the city are planning to take the case to the Indian Human Rights Commission, a government-sponsored body with a mixed reputation for investigating abuses committed by police and soldiers.

Dr Rekha Gosalia, superintendent of the G.T. Sheth Hospital near Rajkot, said some or all of the victims could suffer permanent blindness.

Local police chiefs say they have demanded a detailed report but it is rare for police

to prosecute their own officers. Most of those involved in the Bhagalpur affair, in the northern state of Bihar, were never charged.

Journalists in Gujarat investigating the latest atrocity said police took turns to apply the ointment to the men's eyes.

Mangaldas Prabhudas, 45, one of the victims, was quoted as saying: "When we started rubbing our eyes they caught hold of us and administered the second dose. I lost my vision immediately."

Another victim, Jeevan Masbru, said the police had administered a second application of the cream when they discovered that he was still able to open his eyes after the first dose.

"All the others were crying out in pain, which prompted another round of thrashing [by police], this time on the fingers," he said.

Five of the victims were accused of illegal gambling; one of the other two had been arrested in a minor narcotics case and the other for minor theft.

After seeing one of the victims, Dr Gosalia was quoted as saying: "He was not even allowed first aid when his eyes got swollen, causing blindness. The police brought him here after ten days, by which time considerable damage had been done to his cornea, causing partial or total blindness."

The district magistrate of Rajkot said last night that he had been instructed by the Gujarat state Government to inquire into the affair and report directly to the state Home Secretary.

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Blacks in South Africa turn against job quotas

AN OPINION survey out today shows that a majority of South Africans are against the affirmative action hiring practices that are a centrepiece of government policy and nearly universal in the private sector.

The indications are, moreover, that opinion — including black opinion — has hardened against the policy over the past two years.

Something depends, of course, on definition. Only 23 per cent of voters thought that jobs should go to blacks on principle or until they have a proportionate share of all jobs. But another 22 per cent thought blacks should be appointed to jobs provided they were the equal of other applicants, and if they were not, then the best person should be appointed.

But this is no longer what is meant by affirmative action in South Africa. When a job is announced as an affirmative action appointment it means whites need not apply, and probably Coloureds and Asians need not either. Those in the 22 per cent who favour this option can hardly be counted on the affirmative action side. Even if they are, there is a 54 to 45 per cent majority against, and on the tighter definition of affirmative action the majority against is 76 to 23 per cent.

An opinion poll has revealed a nation in two minds: happy with President Mandela but critical of the ANC's liberal policies, writes R.W. Johnson in Johannesburg

Not surprisingly, the survey, conducted by Markdata, found that more educated Africans — the most likely beneficiaries — were keener on the policy than blue-collar workers and the unemployed. But even among the most educated blacks support fell well short of 50 per cent, leaving one to conclude that the policy is favoured by a very narrow stratum of potential beneficiaries only.

The poll also shows a huge majority of all races against the Government's new liberal abortion law and mounting resentment against illegal immigrants: the ANC is far more liberal on social policy than its natural constituency.

On the other hand, a clear majority of all races wants to keep the functions of government split between three cities — Pretoria (administrative capital), Cape Town (legislative capital) and Bloemfontein (judicial capital) — rather than concentrated in a single capital. Opinion seems to have

swung, however, in favour of splitting the police force into provincial and city forces — perhaps a sign of frustration with the high crime rate, but perhaps also a reflection of the low level of trust in the police shown in the survey.

A curious split-level reality emerges from the data. Massive majorities of all races are satisfied with Mr Mandela as President, but far fewer are satisfied with the Government. When voters are asked to judge on issues, they are unhesitatingly negative about its record. So, at the top level there is a continued liberation euphoria now at odds with opinion on day-to-day life.

There are two particularly worrying signs for the Government. One is that dissatisfaction levels peak in its traditional stronghold of the Eastern Cape. Secondly, Africans are still massively optimistic that conditions will improve for them over the next year or two — yet the economy is slowing and these hopes are almost certain to be

denied, with consequent political disillusionment.

It is in the Eastern Cape, too, that support for Bantu Holomisa, who has broken away from the ANC to form his own party, peaks. The survey finds that Mr Holomisa leads the field there (and picks up significant support in the Western Cape, too) as a popular choice for the next President.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, already the ANC's anointed choice, led the field of presidential contenders but with a surprisingly weak 25 per cent showing. Currently he is picking up only two ANC votes out of every five African ANC supporters and among Asians only one ANC voter in six. His problem is that he lacks a popular base and has the support of only 21 per cent of his own Xhosa-speaking group.

The former ANC party boss, Cyril Ramaphosa, who left politics in favour of a business career, runs a strong second as choice of future President and among the emergent black middle class leads Mr Mbeki by two to one.

Although Mr Mbeki is certain to succeed Mr Mandela, the survey provides an unvarnished picture of the fragmented political reality that seems likely to ensue.



Young recruits to Zaire's rebel army, which has taken the key town of Isiro, hail their leader, Laurent Kabila

Rwanda genocide 'masterminds' for trial

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

COLONEL Theoneste Bagosora and three other people accused of masterminding the 1994 genocide in Rwanda will go on trial next Wednesday, the United Nations war crimes tribunal for Rwanda announced yesterday.

Colonel Bagosora was permanent secretary in the Defence Ministry of the Hutu-dominated regime which was defeated by an army of rebel Tutsis. Earlier,

Hutu extremists had slaughtered more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The others to go on trial, in the north Tanzanian town of Arusha, are Colonel Anatole Nsengiyumva, who was head of military intelligence, Ferdinand Nahimana, who was head of the Rwanda Information Office, and Andre Ntagerura, who was Minister of Transport. The tribunal cannot hand down death sentences.

Meanwhile, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, deputy prosecutor and registrar, are due to appear in New York next Friday to respond to an internal UN investigation that has accused the tribunal of mismanagement and failing to pursue leading genocide suspects.

In Kinshasa, Zaire's Defence Ministry acknowledged yesterday that rebels had taken the key town of Isiro, 210 miles northwest of Kisangani, the country's third largest city. The ministry said it planned to reinforce Kisangani.

protest

dian police blind-spectated gamble with chilli powder



De Klerk: time to rise above old prejudices

De Klerk calls for anti-ANC alliance

Cape Town: Former President F.W. de Klerk has sounded the rallying call for a major realignment of politics in South Africa and gave notice that his National Party was searching for allies as he fended off charges of a crisis in his leadership (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Mapping out his agenda for the coming year, Mr de Klerk gave a warning that without a political shake-up South Africa was heading for one-party rule. He repeated his call for like-minded forces to unite against the African

National Congress with a view to elections in 1999.

"The moderate forces, the moderate thinkers, must find ways of rising above their old prejudices," he said.

President Mandela recently stole Mr de Klerk's thunder by inviting the Democratic Party and Pan Africanist Congress for talks about Cabinet posts. The Inkatha Freedom Party has also been sweetened by Mr Mandela's appointment of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as acting President while on a recent overseas trip.

Democrats attacked by Beijing's man

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S Democrats were attacked yesterday by Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive-designate, for going abroad to warn the world that the colony was facing collapse.

For the first time in public, Mr Tung's affability cracked and his voice shook with anger. His unnamed target was Martin Lee, the chairman of the Democratic Party, which holds most seats in the Legislative Council — which is to be replaced on July 1 by Beijing's appointed body.

Mr Lee has been touring European capitals seeking support for Hong Kong's human and political rights after the takeover.

"Recently some well-known people including the Democratic Party have blackened the reputation of Hong Kong overseas... giving the impression that it is collapsing."

"There are different views as to the speed of democracy," Mr Tung said. "Where to fix the balance between individual rights and the order of our society... These are issues which should be talked through in Hong Kong instead of going overseas in such a way that it creates doubts and confusion which may or may not affect investment, and invites foreign countries to tell us how to do things."

Speaking from Europe, Mr Lee responded: "There are indeed doubts and confusion in foreign countries. We now

have two legislatures acting at the same time... We want people to speak up and save Hong Kong. We want them to speak to the Chinese leaders to get them to wind up this appointed illegal legislature. Then our worries would be over and overseas investors would be very happy to come to Hong Kong. The root of the problem does not lie with the messenger but with the truth of the message."

The day before, a close associate of Mr Tung said that Hong Kong was threatened by "chaos". He said new "technical" laws to be imposed by China were necessary to control demonstrations, and "so that people will absolutely understand they have to obey the law". He added that police were unable to arrest wrongdoers under present laws.

Asked why the police testify that the present laws are sufficient to deal with almost invariably peaceful demonstrations and parades, he said: "They have to say that. It's the government line. It's not what they really think."

When it was noted that Anson Chan, the chief secretary, and Donald Tsang, financial secretary, both expressed alarm at proposed Bill of Rights cuts, Mr Tung's aide said since they would be serving in the next government "it would be better for them not to speak. It just confuses people."

Vietnamese girls leap to death in suicide pact

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HANOI

DISTRAUGHT and forlorn, four 16-year-old girls ate a final meal together, bound their wrists with a silk scarf and leapt from a bridge to their deaths in a suicide pact. Police in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City are still investigating why the girls killed themselves on Monday.

The four worked at a chopstick factory near the city, formerly Saigon, the state-run newspaper *Youth* reported yesterday.

According to witnesses, the girls were seen wandering on the city's Xang bridge. They ate a final meal there, before throwing their shoes, clothing and other belongings into the water. Then they leapt, bound by the wrists. Some people tried to save them but the current swept them away, the newspaper reported.

Three bodies were recovered the next day.

Police quoted relatives as saying that the girls had been showing signs of distress and had sometimes gone home drunk. There was a suggestion that they were having problems with boyfriends and they had apparently left their homes several days earlier. Teenage suicide is rare in Vietnam.

British Council faces storm of protest over library closures

By MARK HENDERSON

THE British Council is facing a storm of protest from expatriates and educationists following its decision to close nearly all its lending libraries in Western Europe and South-East Asia.

Libraries have been closed in every Western European country except France, and services have also been cut in Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. The council will replace the lending libraries with computerised "information centres" with access to the Internet and CD-Roms and scaled down, reference-only libraries. It claims its lending libraries duplicate other public services.

Library users, though, say Britain is losing a unique service that builds foreign goodwill. Andrew Leech, an Anglo-Greek teacher who campaigned against closure of the Athens library in December, said yesterday that English-language teaching and influence would be hit.

A group of Greek academics at the University of Athens said the closure would have "a deplorable effect on the prospects for Greek students studying in English". More than half the library's subscribers were Greek students, and it had the largest stock of English books in Greece. Mr Leech is trying to raise

money to reopen the library privately, supported by the Australian, Irish, South African, Canadian and Pakistani embassies. Britain has not contributed.

Stephan Roman, the British Council's director of information services, said the council had to target resources towards influencing decision-makers and promoting British trade, culture and education. "Lending libraries are no longer achieving this goal in the developed world," he said. The council has no plans to close lending libraries in India or Africa, which still attract thousands of subscribers.

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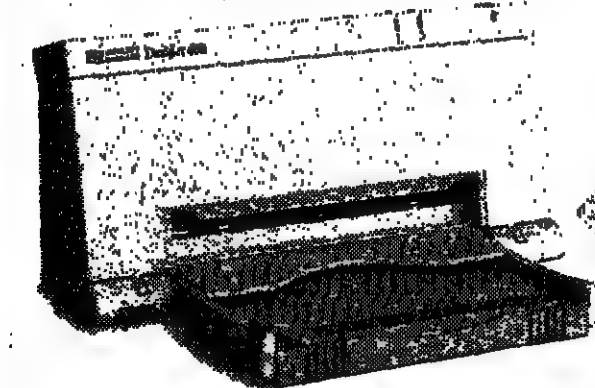
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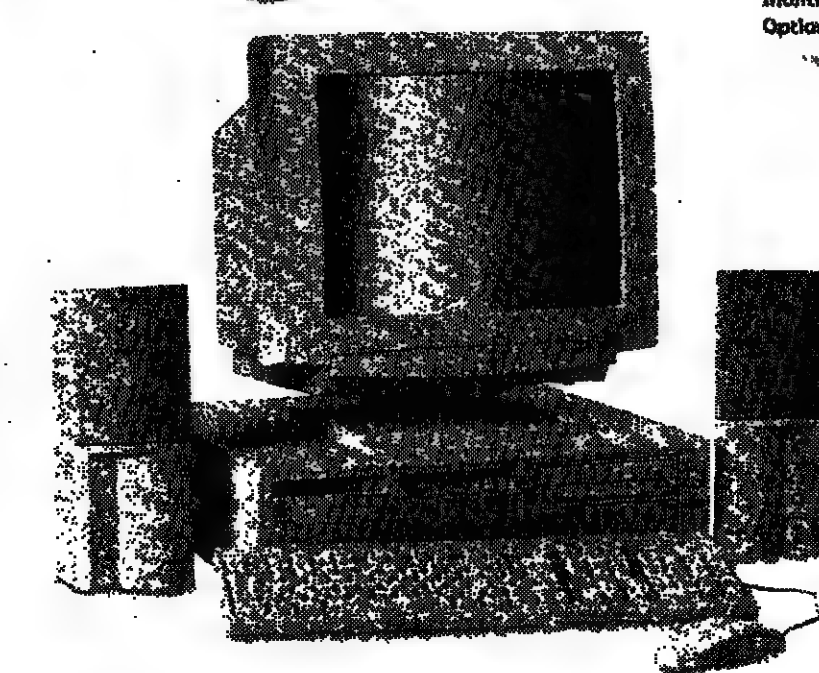
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مكتبة من راسل

Smugglers cash in as police abandon Albanian riot port

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN VLORE, ALBANIA

THE coast road winds down into the dilapidated port of Vlore, past barricades of boulders and burnt-out cars.

More, on the Adriatic, is where riots over savings lost in fraudulent "pyramid" funds have come the closest yet to bringing down the Government of President Berisha. Torn between an intensified crackdown and retreat, Mr Berisha chose retreat this week, withdrawing all police from the town after some of the worst riots that Albania has seen in more than a month of protests.

Residents of this rundown seaside town are left jubilant but baffled. Several thousands again took to the pot-holed, rubbish-strewn streets yesterday, chanting "Down with the Government" and "Resign, resign". There were reports that senior members of the ruling Democratic Party had called on Aleksandr Meksl, the Prime Minister, to step down.

Police continued to block opposition demonstrations in the centre of Tirana, and at Vlore extra troops were shipped into the military base on the island of Sazan, clearly visible across the bay.

people filed past the freshly dug grave of Artur Rustemi, the 34-year-old shopkeeper shot dead during a day of mayhem in which police and protesters pelted each other with stones. Smashed paving stones litter the streets.

"He was killed by the police," the gravedigger told me, turning over the heavy clay soil. I told him that the police deny it. "A sniper," he said flatly.

A colour photograph on the flower-covered grave shows a balding man with a long, smiling face. On either side are the graves of the two men in their fifties who died of heart attacks during the disturbances.

At the hospital, where the wounded were taken, the stench of garbage and decay almost overpowers the disinfectant. "Let's hope Berisha does not bring in the troops," one nurse said. "We can hardly cope as it is."

Down in the town are the gutted remains of the local headquarters of the Democratic Party, set on fire during Mr Rustemi's funeral. Yesterday, as rumours swept Vlore that Vefa, one of the biggest pyramid business empires, was about to collapse ending any hope of refunds, demon-

strators debated whether to burn and loot a Vefa-owned hotel on the seashore.

But quickest to take advantage of the police retreat were the local smugglers, who — scarcely believing their luck — took back more than 100 speedboats confiscated by police for transporting illegal immigrants, cigarettes, marijuana and other contraband. "We grow the best marijuana in the world," said one man as I watched him winching his speedboat on to a flatbed truck.

Vlore, ruled in the past by Romans, Venetians, Turks and Italians, has long had a reputation for brigandry. A plaque on a seaside café marks the spot where Ismail Qemali, a local bey, declared Albania's independence from the Ottomans in 1912.

Today the brigands are Mafia-backed "businessmen", whose opulent wealth and flashy cars contrast with the rubble and grime of Vlore's daily life.

Albanian and Italian mafiosi were heavily involved in pyramid schemes such as Gjalliuca, the Vlore-based fund, which Italian police say was used for Mafia money-laundering. The "businessmen" employ men with



A woman brandishes an Albanian banknote during a demonstration in Vlore yesterday as protests over collapsed pyramid funds continued. Earlier this week the Government withdrew police from the town

YESTERDAY "liberated" speedboats were being used once again to spirit desperate Al-

Police also blamed underworld gangs for the shooting

of Shezai Zani, an off-duty policeman, at his home in Vlore on Wednesday night. He was sprayed with automatic gunfire, then shot in the back of the head with a revolver. Local journalists said the mur-

"I fear there will be more settling of scores before this is over," one said.

Brussels gives British economy bill of health

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



Santer: the Commission has no new forecasts

BRITAIN featured as a model of economic health yesterday in a report by the European Commission that called on member states to apply more reforms along British lines and said that budget "fudging" would not guarantee them a berth in monetary union.

The Commission's annual study of the EU economy made the most of signs of accelerating growth, but this alone would not be enough to make more than a dent in the painfully high level of unemployment, which is now running at an average of 10.8 per cent, it said. The Commission rehearsed the standard argument that Europe *must* preserve its "social model", the doctrine of the welfare state that distinguishes West Europe from the US and other big competitors. But in a tacit nod to the

market approach preached by John Major, it called for greater effort to ditch rigid wage laws and tax habits which have driven up unemployment.

"High wage and non-wage labour costs as well as ... rigid employment security rules have reduced the attractiveness of labour as a production factor," said the 200-page report. In a foray into a political minefield, it urged governments to promote jobs for the young and less skilled by waiving rules on minimum wages and cutting social charges. Contradicting the conventional wisdom in France and other EU states, it said: "Technological change and globalisation are not the cause of unemployment."

Although not cited as a model, Britain's buoyant economy, with a jobless level falling below 7.9 per cent, stood out

in contrast to most other member states. "Since the 1980s the United Kingdom has undertaken a series of deregulatory labour market measures designed to reduce the cost to employers of hiring labour," it noted. Mainly as a result, unemployment was "much lower than the EU average".

The Commission, whose President is Jacques Santer, produced no new forecasts on the question of which countries will match the criteria for monetary union in 1999. The so-called Maastricht criteria are applied to economic performance in 1997. However, it said there was a danger that the once-off budget manoeuvres being employed by a dozen states to scrape under the Maastricht threshold would not create the sustainable financial health that is demanded.

Dutch child killings spark 'copycat' fears

FROM MARK FITLER IN AMSTERDAM

AUTHORITIES in The Netherlands appealed for a news blackout yesterday after a wave of killings of children by their parents.

Psychologists, police and judicial officials fear more "copycat" killings after five cases involving the murders of nine children in four weeks.

In the latest, a 41-year-old father from Hoofddorp, near Amsterdam, admitted murdering his wife and six-year-old daughter.

The killings began on January 15, when police found the bodies of three children at

their home, also in Hoofddorp. Their parents, who failed in suicide attempts, admitted the murders, claiming that they had never recovered from the death of a fourth child from leukaemia two years ago.

Four days later police arrested a 36-year-old woman, accused of suffocating her daughter, aged nine. Five days later a divorced father of 43 shot his two sons, aged seven and nine, and himself. A week ago another divorced man killed his son, eight, and daughter, five.

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Chinese Embassy 'passed illegal cash to Clinton fund'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Chinese Embassy in Washington was used to channel illegal Asian donations to help President Clinton's re-election, the man who helped to uncover Watergate claimed yesterday.

Bob Woodward, writing in *The Washington Post*, said a Justice Department investigation into fundraising irregularities had found evidence that Chinese diplomats used their mission as a centre to solicit money from foreign sources.

Although denied by the embassy, the allegation adds a new diplomatic and counter-intelligence dimension to the burgeoning inquiry into Asian donations, a scandal which seems set to dog Mr Clinton's second term.

Combined with expected congressional subpoenas against former Clinton Administration officials, the allegation may result in the appointment of an independent counsel.

Several federal agencies were said to have conducted electronic surveillance at the embassy and the Justice Department was treating its inquiry as "serious".

Mr Woodward, an indefatigable investigative journalist and managing editor of *The*

Washington Post, said evidence of involvement by the Chinese Government had led the FBI to increase the number of special agents working on its task force from a mere handful to 25.

Mike McCurry, Mr Clinton's press secretary, said that to the "best of his knowledge" no one at the White House knew of any clandestine planning in the embassy.

The Clinton Administration has made disparaging noises to Beijing about human rights, Hong Kong, trade issues and weapons proliferation. It sent a carrier group to the Taiwan Strait last year when the Chinese were engaged in seaborne military exercises in the island's waters.

The Clinton Administration, particularly since re-election, has sought to engage the Chinese further. Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, is to visit Beijing this month and has said that Sino-American relations will not be held hostage to any single issue.

The President is also planning to visit China and has invited President Jiang Zemin to Washington. Mr Clinton, whose interest in the region stems from connections made while he was Governor of

Arkansas, has long argued for a policy of active engagement. American businessmen are eager to enter the fast-emerging Far Eastern markets.

The Chinese have increased their lobbying in Washington, concerned that Taiwan and Israel appear more successful in influencing American policy.

Investigators have long suspected a Chinese connection to the current fundraising scandal because several big donors to the Democratic Party had strong links to Beijing. Charles Yeh Lin-Trie, a former Arkansas restaurateur who is now an international businessman, used his influence to take a Chinese arms dealer to the White House.

John Huang, the former Commerce Department official at the centre of the fundraising scandal, was born in China and worked for the Lippo Group, the Indonesian conglomerate which has extensive interests in the People's Republic.

Last month Gerald Solomon, the Republican chairman of the House rules committee, asked the FBI to investigate Mr Huang and Lippo with an eye to "potential economic espionage against the United States".



President and Mrs Clinton and Vice-President and Mrs Gore at the service. Below, the actor Gregory Peck, who was among the mourners

President's tribute to ally Harriman

FROM LAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAMELA HARRIMAN was praised by President Clinton at her funeral yesterday as a cherished friend who helped him to get his job. "Today I am here in no small measure because she was there," he said, recalling how she had helped his first campaign for the White House.

She had revived his party's spirits when at a low ebb by forming a group that seemed at the time a "laughable

oxymoron" called Democrats for the Eighties. After that, her appointment as American Ambassador to France was one of the easiest choices he made for any job. Mr Clinton told a throng of Cabinet members, politicians, diplomats and friends who gathered at Washington National Cathedral to honour Mrs Harriman, who died, aged 76, in Paris last week.

In his eulogy, Mr Clinton said that Mrs Harriman, who was born in Britain, had adopted the United States with extraordinary devotion and her country had her farewells with profound gratitude. "With the special appreciation of one not native-born, she felt to her bones America's special leadership role in the world," Mr Clinton told the congregation of 1,150. She had represented America with "wisdom, grace and dignity".

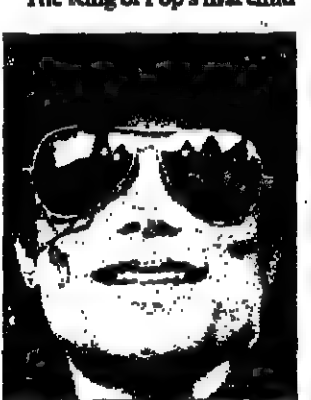
Prince delivered to 'King of Pop'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS helicopters swarmed overhead and paparazzi laid siege to the hospital gates, Debbie Rowe Jackson gave birth to a boy destined for a life of wealth and weirdness in roughly equal measure.

Sources at Cedars Sinai Medical Centre in Beverly Hills said the second Mrs Michael Jackson gave birth to the 6lb 12oz baby at 1am yesterday morning.

The King of Pop's first child



Jackson: child said to be named after him

was reportedly named Michael Jackson Jr, but was instantly dubbed the Prince of Pop by the tabloid army.

Michael Jackson Sr, who still claims to be living out a childhood denied him by an overbearing father, married Debbie Rowe in a hastily arranged midnight ceremony in a Sydney hotel last year after reports emerged that he had paid her over \$500,000 (£390,000) to carry his child.

She will take a tough stance towards Russia's concerns about extending Nato membership to Central and Eastern European states, emphasising that it will be given no veto or lever to slow down the process. The State Department will also take a sceptical line towards the Russian claim that enlargement will stir up political tensions by giving power to hardline isolationist factions. The Clinton Administration regards this as an attempt to give America a "guilt trip".

Ms Albright's visit to Europe, where unresolved questions about Nato enlargement dominate relations with the US, comes at the start of a whirlwind round-the-world

Albright mission to back Nato and EU expansion

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, the American Secretary of State, will arrive in Europe next week with a message that America wants the enlargement of Nato to be accompanied by a rapid widening and deepening of the European Union.

She will take a tough stance towards Russia's concerns about extending Nato membership to Central and Eastern European states, emphasising that it will be given no veto or lever to slow down the process. The State Department will also take a sceptical line towards the Russian claim that enlargement will stir up political tensions by giving power to hardline isolationist factions. The Clinton Administration regards this as an attempt to give America a "guilt trip".

Ms Albright's visit to Europe, where unresolved questions about Nato enlargement dominate relations with the US, comes at the start of a whirlwind round-the-world

tour, including Russia and China. However, President Clinton sees Nato expansion, where America's role is clear and essential, as promising ground for negotiations, in contrast to tortuous problemsolving in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Middle East and Northern Ireland.

Nato members will meet to thrash out terms of expansion in July in Madrid. That will come after a meeting between President Clinton and President Yeltsin in Helsinki, at which Russia will voice again its anxiety at seeing its former satellites drawn within a European security blanket.

Washington regards Russia's demand that Nato should not put its equipment or troops on new members' soil as unreasonable. The State Department takes the view that new members should have all the rights of membership.

America is more sympathetic to Russia's concern that an enlarged Nato should not sprawl eastwards. Nato mem-

bers have said that an enlarged organisation would not deploy nuclear weapons on the new members' soil. Washington will encourage Russia to rely for reassurance on signed agreements with the alliance's members, which will however not be legally binding.

Washington's tough stance is based partly on the view that the transformation which Russia is undergoing is so profound and disruptive that its Government is liable to blame any apparent external threat for its problems. At the same time the Clinton Administration is concerned to allay fears at home that it is conceding too much to a former enemy.

In committing America to Nato expansion, the Administration will face tough battles in the Republican-controlled Congress. American participation in an enlarged North Atlantic alliance would need approval by two thirds of the Senate.

Disgraced skater 'chased through wood by knifeman'

BY GILES WHITTELL

TONYA HARDING, the tarnished figure of the figure skating rink, claims that she has pulled off a dramatic escape from a knife-wielding abductor who commandeered her pick-up truck and ordered her to take him "where I need to go".

Ms Harding's account of a terrifying half-hour chase through woods near her Oregon home comes three years after she admitted covering up an attack on her arch-rival, Nancy Kerrigan, and ten days before her long-awaited comeback.

Shaken but uninjured, the 26-year-old told Portland sheriff's deputies that a bushy-haired man had ambushed her within yards of her front door and forced her at knifepoint to drive for half an hour to a rural area beyond the city limits.

The man slapped her when she offered to stop and let him out, the skater claimed, with a

bruise on her face to back up the story.

When he ordered her to drive down a dirt road she deliberately rammed a tree, grabbed her car keys and ran off into some woods, she said.

The chase ended with Ms Harding dodging through trees to shake off her pursuer, returning to the pick-up and driving to safety, she told police.

The officer responded: "We'll treat this at face value and investigate it just as we would investigate anybody."

Retracing her steps, detectives confirmed that there was a fresh dent in a tree where Ms Harding said she had hit it with her vehicle, though they found no trace of the suspect she described.

Oregon's most famous red-head was banned from skating in amateur competition, fined \$10,000 (£6,500) and told to perform 500 hours of community service after a crowd attack on Ms Kerrigan that failed either to break her leg, as planned, or to prevent her winning a silver medal at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics in Norway. Ms Harding finished eighth.

Since then, she has turned down offers of television contracts in Japan and been booed when attempting to launch a second career as the lead singer for a now-defunct pop group called the Golden Blades.

She is scheduled to perform a three-minute ice skating exhibition routine in the Nevada gambling town of Reno next weekend.



Harding: hoping for a skating comeback

OJ rules out offer over confession

BY GILES WHITTELL

O.J. SIMPSON has declined an offer by Fred Goldman to drop a claim to \$21 million (£12.8 million) in damages in return for a confession by Mr Simpson to the killings of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown. "No matter how much money I am offered I would never confess to a crime which I did not commit," the former football star said through his lawyer.

Mr Goldman had said he would forfeit his share of the \$33.5 million in damages awarded against Mr Simpson "if he wanted to sign a confession with all the details of his crime, and broadcast it all over the country". The Goldman family lawyer, Daniel Petrocelli, backed the offer despite having taken the case on a contingency basis.

The rejection of a cash-for-confession deal was widely anticipated since it would have left Mr Simpson, who has always denied carrying out the murders, vulnerable to perjury charges. It sets the stage for a protracted court battle by the victims' families to seize Mr Simpson's assets.

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The declining state of the Union



Once a forum for serious debate, the Oxford Union now displays a growing taste for cheap publicity stunts, says former president Michael Gove

Only last night, the Oxford Union was spared from its latest occasion of shame when Mandy Allwood withdrew from a debate on abortion. Speakers including Ann Clwyd, MP, and the columnist Mary Kenny were apparently reluctant to share a platform with the woman who had turned the miracle of life into a media franchise.

It is no longer a surprise to see the Oxford Union invite individuals to speak who are famous only for being infamous. The chair, once graced by Asquith, has now been occupied by a succession of students who have mortgaged the society's reputation by receiving a sex therapist, a wife-beater and killer.

Jane Collins's talk on "Stimulating women: What exactly do women want from sex?" might be appropriate on a *Marie-Claire* cover but should it have been delivered in the William Morris splendour of the Union's Old Library? The Union has played host to courtroom performers, but should the place at the dispatch box once taken by R.E. Smith be occupied by O.J. Simpson? Even the "interrogation" of Kermit the Frog would have been a weak joke in a kindergarten. It was a blot on the term of an otherwise outstanding president.

Presidents increasingly invite guests to hawk their wares in a format that owes more to the traditions of television light entertainment than an ancient university. When Simpson

came to the Union, it was an exercise in rehabilitation, not cross-examination. He presided over a glorified press conference instead of being tested in debate. His itinerary bore Max Clifford's sticky fingerprints. The press agent is not quite the Mephistopheles he is painted. His trade has its place — in the twilight alleys off Fleet Street. But he should not be the puppet-master of Oxford Union presidents.



Simpson: rehabilitation

Of course, those elected to office in the Oxford Union are only students. They can be forgiven if their view of wise conduct is occasionally eclipsed by Hollywood glamour. But, judged against their predecessors, even the most indulgent must acknowledge recent officers are saying next to "Hyperions". The Union, has earned itself poor notices in the past, but criticism has come from sources who recognised the importance of the

institution and regretted the results of debates which they believed to be barometers of Young England's mood. The most notorious moment in the society's history was the 1933 "King and Country" debate when a majority of members voted against fighting for the monarch and his realm. The expression of undergraduate pacifism is supposed to have emboldened Hitler to go to war, confident that effete British youth would not resist him.

In the Sixties the society once again found the radicalism of its members, who opposed the Vietnam War, attracting notice. Harold Wilson sent the Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, to the Union to defend American actions. His hostile reception underlined the opposition to the war of intelligent youth. Even in the Eighties, the birth of the SDP was only pronounced a success after the Union had given its blessing, even though William Hague, the then rising star, accurately predicted that the party would become "the heterosexual wing of the Liberal Party".

The Union's influence on politics has been built on a solid tradition of taking debate seriously. The society was founded in 1823 and attracted the young Gladstone to its first meetings. It witnessed the first steps to greatness of Lords Curzon and Birkenhead, Roy Jenkins, Edward Heath, William Rees-Mogg, Anthony Howard, Jeremy Isaacs, Tariq Ali, Benazir Bhutto and William Hague. From the claret-



The appearance of Kermit the Frog would have been "a weak joke in a kindergarten. It was a blot on the term of an otherwise outstanding president"

fuelled fluency of Asquith in the 1870s to Hague's Teddy-bear tirades in the Eighties, certain traditions survived. Debates at the Union were not student shouting-matches but dignified jousts conducted in accordance with practices which encouraged undergraduates to raise their game to the level of past masters. The Union's pre-eminence over its older sister in Cambridge was in part due to the less formal and serious nature of the Cambridge Union. For most of its history it has been overshadowed by Oxford, a provincial council chamber next to a surrogate Westminster.

The Union, however, did have a place for levity. The final debates of most terms and the fifth week of the summer term were given over to frivolous motions, some genuinely funny. And the cellar, once transformed into a nightclub by the then president, Michael Heseltine, provided a stage where comedians such as Armando Iannucci, Stewart Lee and Richard Herring were first dazed by the footlights. But our main intent then was serious. We believed in the importance of being earnest, even if the results were sometimes comic.

My own record as president

hardly stands comparison with my distinguished predecessors. I presided over more than my fair share of catastrophes but at least we tried to make debating the society's heart and soul. An audience of over a thousand came to hear Matthew Parris and Duncan Campbell debate homosexual law reform with Tory backbenchers, and hundreds came to see Malcolm Rifkind take on Donald Dewar on the future of the United Kingdom.

Of course some of my actions were actuated by ambition. As an aspirant hack, I chose to speak in debates with broadcasters and backbenchers, indeed organised one on

the future of the media with Alan Yentob and Peter Jay, but in the Eighties, ambition was channelled into debating with heavyweights in the chamber, not schmoozing with Mr Clifford at the bar.

Presidents may believe celebrities attract members but in 1987 undergraduates joined in their hundreds to hear Laurent Fabius and Michael Heseltine discuss the future of the West. Now the Union has Geoffrey Boycott to discuss defensive strategy. The commercial course does not even seem to be a success in its own terms. The cost of meeting the "expenses" of visits by Diego Maradona and Simpson saw

the society lurch into deficit. Whatever new subscriptions were secured by the Claret sales seem to have been outweighed by the associated costs. The Cambridge Union, which is financially flush, has seen no need to take the low road and flourishes with a programme of serious debate of the sort Oxford used to concentrate on.

Of course, the Oxford Union still attracts serious speakers but it has been living off a dwindling inheritance. The intellectual capital built up over generations has been squandered for cheap publicity. This House should put itself in order.

Thought for the day

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Tall tales aren't just for small minds

CAPRICORN ONE is one of those grainy American films that makes ideal viewing during the early, and often hazy hours of Saturday morning. Part sci-fi, part thriller, part adventure movie, the 1978 film centres on how the first manned flight to Mars is a government hoax to impress the American public. And the 1970s hairstyles, fashions and dialogue heap hilarity on an already ridiculous plot.

Startlingly, there are some people who believe that man never set foot on the Moon. But far from being dribbling fools, these unbelievers are young professionals and they are featured in a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 (*For The Love Of* ... midnight, February 24).

The cult of believing in daft things seems to be experiencing a dramatic revival. The resurgence started with the *X-Files*, which tapped deep into the human psyche. It spawned many imitations, including the dreadful *Out Of This World*, which claimed to investigate paranormal phenomena through scientific means. It may have been laughable, but the series simply served to expose the number of people who believe in the most irrational things. Haunted houses, coinci-

The belief in daft things is undergoing a revival, reports Anjana Ahuja

dences, telepathic pets, spontaneous human combustion — no subject was too dodgy. Now we have *Fortean TV* and *Bizarre*, a new men's magazine incorporating a world map of UFO sightings.

It was, and is, all old hat. In the early 1980s I subscribed to *The Unexplained*, a weekly magazine about strange phenomena. Its contents were a crinkled delight — fairies, poltergeists, vampires, water that flowed uphill, alien abduction, clouds that resemble Jesus, and, again, spontaneous human combustion. Now a similar magazine series is being advertised. It is going to sell because there are more people than ever who are convinced that The Truth Is Out There.

I HAVE also measured the rise in interest in inexplicable phenomena by the mailbox for *The Times* science page. A reader recently wrote to tell me about the Philadelphia Experiment, which was also the subject of a film. The Americans, it was said, had been experimenting with electromagnetic fields to make things disappear. They had,

we were told, made a battleship vanish. But something had gone wrong when they tried to make the ship reappear. It eventually came back,

but the seamen went mad and apparitions of the ship kept cropping up. The letter raised a smile because I had read about the episode in my younger days. I noted his comments, and added it to a pile of letters about ghosts, alien abductions, spontaneous human combustion...

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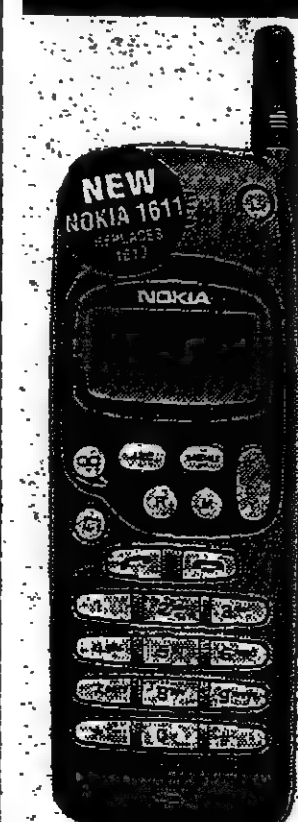
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How to have a perfect marriage

It is St Valentine's Day, when the papers are full of soppy Bunnikins stuff. It is also National Marriage Week. Liam and Patsy dithered in St John's Wood, while the Bishop of Hull sensibly suggested tax incentives to marry. The think-tank Demos proposed that people write their own short-term marriage contracts. At last our obsession with divorce — there is, as yet, no National Divorce Week — is switching to marriage. "Marriage preparation," Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said on Tuesday, "could be the most effective means of preventing problems."

This is music to the ears of Penny Mansfield, director of One Plus One, founded in 1971 as the Marriage Research Centre, brainchild of the visionary Dr Jack Dominian. One Plus One believes that instead of ineffectual marriage counselling — when people are banging on the door to get out — we should support marriage before it starts to go wrong. But how? The idea at first seemed mad, but the wisdom of it is now dawning. Marriage breakdown is expensive, socially disruptive, emotionally damaging. And One Plus One is launching its programme of American-style training for marriage this week.

Ms Mansfield is 45, convent-educated, married for 20 years to Richard Dowden (a former Editor of *The Catholic Herald*, now writing for *The Economist* about Africa), whom she met when she interviewed him about the emigration of Irish Catholic immigrants. They live in an enormous house in Highbury with two teenage daughters. It all looks wonderfully blessed. But she at once says that marriage is not easy.

Mr Dowden is often away. "And places like Rwanda and Zaire take a lot of coming back from." It brings all sorts of strains. How to maintain his involvement with the trivia of the children's lives? Apparently the fax machine is their salvation. "Modern technology can support the fabric of family life."

We sat and talked of marriage while Mr Dowden supervised mock GCSE revision upstairs. Ms Mansfield, a graduate in human sciences, finds her work perennially riveting.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Ten years ago she interviewed 75 newlywed couples. Now she has followed them up. A few have split up; but she says it is far more revealing to study those who stay together and how.

You might think the intact marriage is the one where nothing happens. On the contrary — in an intact marriage, lots of things are going on. Remember in Lampedusa's *The Leopard*: "Things have got to change to stay the same." That's what happens in a marriage that works.

As Erid Bagnold once wrote, anyone can part; lasting is the difficulty, and the beauty, of marriage: "the candlelit battleground, the ruses, the fun, the love, the rage."

"It's not about who does the washing up," Ms Mansfield says. "It's much deeper than that. Things change over the years. Having different circles of friends. Having children, which brings enormous changes. Who has more freedom, who's left in the house? Then children grow up, and divide and rule their parents." Tolstoy got it wrong, when he said "All happy families resemble one another," Ms Mansfield says. "It's happy couples who are as different as could be. No two are the same."

But what distinguishes marriage is the expectation of permanence — and you can't expect something permanent to stay the same, on a plateau of perfection. The marriages that survive find a way of making sense of the less than perfect periods. The anchor is the partnership.

Penny Mansfield, the director of One Plus One, believes the antidote to a rising divorce rate could be pre-marriage training

Many women, she says, cite overcoming an adversity as a proof of their commitment. They say: "We went through all that and we're still here, so we must be all right." They could have walked out, but did not. "Better the devil you know," they shrug. "We have things in common. And children. We've built a life together."

"We think of the perfect marriage as a caring, sharing, all-revealing relationship. But women often settle for less. They say: 'I know he'll never understand me really. But he's a nice bloke. And he wouldn't be able to cope without me.' And that seems to be enough."

She approves of Demos's proposals for flexible contracts for childless couples because it underlines the social value of marriage, making a private relationship a public contract.

"To people who say, 'what's the point, why does it matter?', the answer is, it matters because rituals help people to express things important to them. Most of us need some way of marking boundaries, of saying 'I am throwing in my lot with this person, and I want to make it work.' And when it works, it works because you can trust the other person, and rely on them. You think: 'we're on the same side.'"

"Marriage is important to the health of society. People look after each other, which saves society an awful lot of money. It's one reason why the Government now realises that supporting marriage is in everybody's interest."

The training for marriage — it is called PREP and comes from the University of Denver, where research already shows that prepped couples are less likely to part — teaches people to argue, negotiate and listen. How not to walk out of a room, or hurl painful putdowns, or let rows escalate into fights.

"We have a video showing a wife talking at her husband, while he withdraws further away, feeling engulfed by this woman. The essential thing is not to end by hitting each other. Domestic violence happens because women are extremely verbal, and men lash out because they can't get their point across in any other way."

The modern predicament, she says, "is that people can't fall back on those old roles of mother and father, husband and wife, because they are both involved in everything; there are so many demands on them, and so little time, and never enough money; they are bound to argue more, and the couples who do best are those who can argue without ending up saying 'I don't know why I ever married you.'"

Ms Mansfield often visits schools: last week she addressed the sixth-form at Harrow and told them every marriage is a mixed marriage because "it's a man and a woman — two foreign cultures which have to be resolved."

"They asked me, can you fall out of love? And I explained the difference between falling in love and loving. Falling in love is wonderful, but bound to result in change — which may be just moving into this loving state, when the loved one comes off the pedestal."

Marriages in this loving state are like friendship: they hardly need "skills". They flourish as effortlessly as breathing, there is no "making it work". This week, an NOP survey found that what people want most from marriage is "friendship" or "companion-ship". Which shows how far marriage has changed since 1955, when a survey found the most important thing in marriage was "fulfilling the roles of breadwinner and homemaker". Perhaps the most timeless guideline is the Victorian manual, *Happy Homes and How to Make Them*. The first of its 15 rules was: "Do not expect too much."



Penny Mansfield says: "Marriage is important to the health of society. People look after each other"

Pulling a new trick out of the hat

John Lenahan has a little rule he never lets anyone take his photograph holding a deck of cards. It may be superstition, it may be a fear of coming across like a pick-a-card-any-card fair-ground card sharp with no further strings to his bow. But he breaks it occasionally. Because that is what people do with rules.

The Magic Circle has a little rule, too, about members not divulging the secrets of their

John Lenahan may have played his cards right after all. His expulsion from the Magic Circle has ensured maximum publicity for his TV show, says Giles Coren

trade. But John Lenahan broke that, too. It was on an edition of *How Do They Do That?* in 1994 that he revealed the mysteries of the three-card monte, a trick used by conmen to separate gullible fools from their savings. A beautiful al-

truistic gesture, you might think, but the revered Circle did not see it that way. Lenahan was booted out, the first magician to be expelled since 1909 (when the Circle's founder and first president was evicted for a similar transgression).

"They got me on a bum rap," Lenahan scoffs. "I argued that I was just showing people how not to get conned, that it wasn't a bona fide magic trick. But they weren't interested in debate."

Lenahan, an American, learnt magic as an adult and only took a crack at it professionally because his juggling wasn't up to scratch. He settled in London in the 1980s. He has a well developed sense of the absurd, which makes it hard to tell whether he takes the Magic Circle seriously. He

had not been a member long when they ejected him. "I had refused to join for years because they didn't allow women in, and when they changed that rule, I was one of the first to join. But I was pretty outspoken about their sexist policies, so I guess they were looking for a good reason to chuck me out."

And is it likely to be a permanent exclusion? "Oh yes, I'm outta there for ever, or at least until Berglass [the president] dies." But the effects of Lenahan's ejection have not been entirely negative. He got a better share of the headlines than he might have, say, extracting a rabbit from a hat on prime-time television, and now he has his own comedy magic series, *Stuff The White Rabbit*.

"I just took out an ad on the back page of *The Stage*," he chuckles. "It was a big picture of me and it said: 'A message to the council of the Magic Circle from John Lenahan, host of the BBC's new magic show: Nyahh, Nyahh, Nyahh, Nyahh, Nyahh.'"

A cynic might suggest that he knew what would happen when he revealed his secret, that it was a highly cunning PR stunt. "Not at all," he says. "I'm not saying that being thrown out of the Magic Circle wasn't professionally one of the best things that has ever happened to me. But it wasn't planned."

"The Magic Circle is a big group of amateurs — it's a bunch of guys who just sit around and do card tricks. Being thrown out of the AA is worse — at least it helps you out once in a while."

Does he want to be invited back? "I want them to state that what they did was wrong. And that won't happen." *Stuff The White Rabbit* is on BBC2 tonight at midnight.

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هكذا من الاموال

Philip Howard



Journalists like a good howler to get their teeth into

By extension, Dracula might be considered Draconian. For Dracula lived on after his death by sucking the blood of virgins. He preferred his virgins to be living ones. Whereas Draco made almost every violation of his laws a capital offence. Contemporaries in 18th-century Athens complained that his penal code was "written in blood". So Draco set a precedent for modern Home Secretaries and their Shadows sucking up to the *Daily Mail* law-and-order vote. Under his system, being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime sent offenders for the high jump — literally. Those banged up in British jails might consider Draco's death penalty without the option a less cruel and unnatural punishment than continual visits from Ann Widdecombe, the Minister for Prisons, on her vampirish hobby.

However, not even the lowest-life Athenian accused Draco of literally sucking up blood, without some risk of metaphorical inexactitude. So when Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the most truculent teachers' union, said that to call the Government's latest education fiddle Draconian was an insult to Dracula, there were hoots and shrieks. Sub-editors showed their usually hidden hands on the front pages for once by the sharp insertion of "sic" after Dracula. This was a classic example of the Schadenfreude we take from other men's gaffes, or what the Americans call flubs. Teachers collect such classroom howlers. Even in 1840, Macaulay may have been showing off his capacious memory when he wrote: "Every schoolboy knows who imprisoned Montezuma and who strangled Atahualpa." Today not many pupils or their teachers or teachers' representatives are up to speed on Draco.

But Dracula has become a legend in his after-life. The vampire has become a necessary myth, and bloodsucker is a contemporary metaphor. Dracula is almost as popular a subject for films as Robin Hood. And the cinema has created a vast subculture, and shifted the Dracula mythology a long way from its origin. The films work by sensational and shocking images: thunder and lightning shake the cardboard Carpathians, sinister shadows descend the staircase, moonlight glitters on the curiously elongated cuspids of Peter Cushing or Bela Lugosi. But Bram Stoker's original *Dracula* worked by slowly building suspense.

Wilde Collins created the sensation novel *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*. By attributing various strands of the narrative to various narrators, he created a psychological mystery. Stoker used the same trick to heighten a fearful ignorance. *Dracula* incorporates telegrams, extracts from letters and diaries, the use of broken English and transliterated shorthand to build a crumbling Gothic tower of terror. And it leads up to the chilling climax: "Take the papers that are with this, the diaries of Harker and the rest, and read them, and then find the great Un-Dead, and cut off his head and burn his heart or drive a stake through it, so that the world may rest from him."

The world will never rest from Dracula, though most of us would be pushed to name more than a handful of virgins who have recently been troubled with nocturnal visits by the thirsty dead. But Dracula combines the irresistible themes of violent eroticism, vicarious terror and blood. The blood-red tears on those demon-eyes election advertisements drip directly down from Vlad the Impaler and his haunts deep in the Carpathian Mountains of the mind.

And Nigel de Gruchy's schoolboy howler adds to the stock of what the current film *Ridicule* calls English "idiomah". The film explores the malicious onenesship of aristocrats at the court of Louis XVI, as it gawped towards the precipice. A fall at that dance of wits was a mortal loss of face. Baroque-sin tripping up the pompous in silk hats is an old English joke. So it is sport to see the grouchy teachers' rep host in his own backyard. And those of us who scribble in the public arena of wit and humiliation thank our lucky stars that it was not us. And hope for mercy next time we commit *Dead Sea Squirrels* or write a headline such as: "Scotland Yard squad helps dog bite victim." As the old Greek legislator might have put it. *Errare est humanum*.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE.



"YOU'RE DEAD MEAT, HOGG"

Peter Brookes 14.2.97

A long shot at gunmen

I have no view on shotguns and rifles, but I have no doubt a ban will come

The future, as someone once said, arrives on little cats' feet. Scrutinising each paw mark, we seldom ask where the cat is going. Eleven months after the Dunblane massacre, the Firearms Bill returns to the Commons next week. The reforms took a battering in the Lords. The Commons will consider their amendments; they will consider whether the Government's case for extending prohibitions on gun-ownership; they will consider an opportunistic Opposition case for pushing them a little further.

They should raise their eyes from the paw marks. The case MPs should consider is not the Tories' proposals, the Opposition's objections, or the Lords' amendments. It is the case for a complete ban on the home ownership of all guns, including shotguns — and even rifles. That is the only destination of the reformers' argument, the only ground on which its logic finds any final rest.

This is no place to scrutinise the present state of play, which can be summarised in five short sentences. The Government proposed to outlaw the private ownership of all large calibre handguns, and require owners of small calibre weapons to store them securely in gun clubs. The Opposition would outlaw the private ownership of the latter, too. The Lords want to permit the home ownership of certain specially disabled handguns, and more compensation for those to whom the changes bring financial loss.

A handgun is a gun which can be fired with one hand. But why only guns that can be fired with one hand?

That is the unarticulated question, the "hush, Matilda," question, the "ask that again and you'll get a clip round the ear" question, the "sorry, I didn't hear that one; next question please..." question: the question too far.

But there is an answer to it. No rational grounds exist for stopping at handguns, but unless you draw the line there, you meet shotguns. More than half the guns legally owned in Britain are shotguns. Shotguns are the weapons which kill most of those who die by guns. More than a million shotguns are licensed, to some 650,000 people. And those are just the legal ones. Stolen shotguns are the sub-post mistress's nightmare. If you want a shotgun, rob a farmer; they keep them behind the door.

By contrast, the Government's proposals involve less than a fifth of all

guns, and to these the Opposition would add only the 20 per cent of handguns which escape the Bill's prohibition. Nine-tenths of Britain's gun-owners can live with current Tory or Labour proposals.

The electoral calculation is simple: "taking action" against gun-ownership is vaguely popular among those without guns, but intensely unpopular with gun-owners. You imperil their support, but you will win only limited new support from the rest of us. So if your proposed measure is to bring net electoral gain, it is vital that those who lose from the measure are vastly outnumbered by those who have no direct interest.

Add shotgun-owners to the losers and, close to an election, you may alienate more votes than you gain. Home possession of shotguns is fiercely defended by the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association; half a million votes could be lost from banning shotguns. And a general election is imminent. This is the reason, and the only reason, why, for the time being, politicians are not talking about shotguns.

Observe their embarrassment when they have to. In reserving any proposition for our special contempt, it is always encouraging to find Mr Jack Straw supporting it, and to discover what, with Mr Straw, passes for an argument in its favour. Here he is, explaining why shotguns should not be banned: "I do not believe that shotguns are in the same category as handguns. Shotguns are not manufactured to kill human beings, although I know that they can do so. Shotguns are used for what I regard as legitimate sports..."

Shotguns, Mr Straw, are the chosen weapon for about half the gun-killing in Britain. "The majority of unlawful killings are domestic and involve the use of shotguns," said the Association of Chief Police Officers in December last year. In Scotland in 1993, of the offences in which the use of a firearm was alleged, 268 involved shotguns or rifles; 49 involved handguns. Further, most of

those who shoot themselves choose a shotgun.

Here (and arguing — note this — for gun-ownership) is Sir David Steel: "What would have happened if, instead of using a handgun, Thomas Hamilton had sawn off both barrels of a shotgun, cut down the butt, concealed it about his person and then fired it on the children? He could have caused just about the same damage. Would the House now solemnly be deciding to ban the possession of shotguns?"

Here is David Mellor: "If I were a licensed shotgun holder, I would pray to every god that I recognised that that would never happen, because if it did the spotlight might shift."

Here is Earl Attlee, no prohibitionist himself: "... But if Dunblane had been perpetrated with a shotgun I am sure that the minister would now be explaining how dangerous a shotgun was: that it was used to kill living things while a handgun was only used for target practice..." She might also describe the power and the size of a shotgun cartridge compared with that of a handgun. Shotguns are extremely dangerous weapons and it is pointless to have draconian rules for firearms while treating shotguns as toys.

Last week in New Zealand a man went berserk with a shotgun, attempted to kill 14 people, shot dead six people and wounded the rest. Sooner or later New Zealand will come to Britain.

There exist, of course, organisations to fight the shotgun and rifle owners' corner when the parliamentary battle commences. How ready are these with battery of fact and argument they need? Hopefully unprepared. My responses from the British Field Sports Society, the Country Landowners' Association and the farmers' union this week suggest an army that will be routed within days.

They offer two arguments: recreation and hunting; and culling and pest control. It takes the brains of a gnat to see that in the wake of some ghastly

massacre, the arguments for recreation will be worse than useless. To start wittering about the joys of the pheasant-shoot will sound like an insult to the dead. As for deer-culling or veterinary use, neither necessitates home-ownership of guns.

The farmers' union will rely on the argument for pest control. This is weaker than is often assumed. The union claims that about 95 per cent of farmers own shotguns. It is true that many do, but my own straw poll in Derbyshire suggests that the figure may be half that, and that even those farmers who do own shotguns — though they would be furious to have them confiscated — own them by preference and habit rather than necessity. Most farmers in most of the world throughout most of history have managed without guns. Farmer Giles may blast off at rabbits, crows and wood pigeons from time to time, but the shotgun is not and could not be the rural mainstay for controlling these.

The Snowdrop Campaign is boxing clever on shotguns. The last thing it wants is the countryside lobby ranged against the limited reform that it, for the moment, is seeking. Its representatives insist that the thought of banning anything more than handguns has never entered their heads. It will.

And when it does, count me out of the controversy, because the battle will be lost almost before it starts. Within four years, fox-hunting will be banned. The home-ownership of shotguns will come next. Restricting rifles will come after that. Please do not write to me with arguments for or against any of these. I have no views on gun-ownership, beyond the suspicion that the only people who should not be entrusted with a gun are those who really want one. The purpose of this article has not been to advance or resist change, but simply to tell you where the paw marks lead.

Here, finally, is Tony Blair, on the Firearms Bill: "Let the 80 per cent solution become the 100 per cent solution, and this Parliament will have done the will of the people." But this Bill is not the 80 per cent solution. It is the 99 per cent solution. Mr Blair's amendment is not the 100 per cent solution. It is the 11 per cent solution. Shotgun and rifle-owners had better start praying to every god they and David Mellor recognise. The will of the people is a capricious thing, and arrives on little cats' feet.

Matthew Parris

Just murmur

FURY is turning to contempt among members of the Tory backbenchers' 1922 Committee, who have been told they will not be permitted to ask questions of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he comes to address them next week. It is the first time anyone can remember such drastic measures being taken to protect a minister from his own side.

The guilty party is the committee's chairman, Sir Marcus Fox, who is widely felt to represent the Government in the backbenchers rather than vice versa.

For the backbenchers, most of them Eurosceptics who would love to sink their gnashers into Clarke, it is deeply frustrating. When Margaret Thatcher addressed the committee, no one dared ask questions. John Major answered, in his fashion, and it has always been possible for MPs at least to "make points" in the past.

With an election due, and the Chancellor being such a livewire, Clarke will speak for half an hour and then leave. "This is doubtless on the advice of Mawhinney," says one MP of the party chairman who addressed the 1922 the other night. "He got a terrible

mauling and probably passed the word on to Clarke."

Sir Marcus Fox, however, says: "The purpose of the meeting is to hear from the minister, not to question him." Party democracy at its best.

Less than 24 hours after I reported the resignation of John Dux, managing director of Mohamed Al Fayed's publishing outfit, Andrew Neil had his feet under the desk. I am assured, however, that Neil has no designs



on Al Fayed's struggling magazine, *Punch*: "He's doing a day a week for the People's Trust, the charity Mohamed is involved in."

Island canary

A WARNING for those taking tea with the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas: take your earplugs. Denktas's pet canary, the world's noisiest, sits in on all meetings.

The voluble bird makes for difficulties with tape-recorded interviews, but is at least an improvement on its predecessor, a parakeet, which Denktas gave the run of his spacious office. "It would crawl up your legs and chew your notes," says one Western envoy. "Most disconcerting. The checker it got, the broader the smile on Denktas's face."

Sports desk

COULD THE heady working atmosphere at *The Spectator* have given rise to a declaration of love? This week, the magazine carries a St Valentine's Day message which reads: "Bruce. There's more to stalking than deer. An admirer." Bruce Anderson, the magazine's admirably heavyweight political editor, who regularly leaves himself about Scotland's deer forest.



was out to lunch yesterday when I called. But he will be delighted to learn that the whispers about the message centre on Kimberley Fortier, *The Spectator*'s head-turning publisher, who has just taken up country sports.

Unhitched

DISHARMONY has hit a conference on marriage this weekend, after one guest speaker floundered off because he cannot tolerate another. Richard Kirker of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement refuses to appear on the same platform as Anne Atkins, agency aunt at *The Daily Telegraph*, who criticised gay sex on Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*.

Demos, the think-tank organising the conference, is appalled: "I feel that we are being censored. They are being outrageously un-

professional." But Kirker is unmoved: "She made a personal attack, defamed our organisation and was personally vitriolic." In the tradition of agony aunts, however, Atkins is philosophical: "I'm not entirely surprised by their decision," she whinnies.

Pillar & posts

TEARS fill Smith Square with news that Alistair Cooke, for 20 years the intellectual pillar of Conservative Central Office, is to leave after the election. A busy, moustachioed man mixing a parade-ground bark with a clubland languor, he leaves his various posts as director of the Conservative Political Centre, deputy director of the research department and editor of the door-stopping Campaign Guide, a full election summary of Tory policy positions.

Having seen the likes of Chris Patten, Michael Portillo and Alan Howard pass through his offices, he will now become general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council. Renowned for his spiky speeches for departing members of staff, he says: "I think I might give too many people the chance for revenge."



Chelsea has a harbour

silkily-clad toast of her father's presidential inaugural celebrations. Now she has been offered a place at Harvard University. Miss Clinton, however, is not committing herself just yet. Apparently she would prefer to go to Brown University, a smart establishment up in Rhode Island. This may be because her father has his eye on a Harvard chair when he leaves the White House.

Why was Heseltine so cross?

Deregulation is irrelevant, says

Tessa Blackstone

When he finally leaves the political stage, Michael Heseltine may be missed rather more by the business community than by his Tory colleagues. This is what made last month's outburst at the launch of a report by some distinguished members of the community so surprising. He loudly condemned *Promoting Prosperity* and its authors, the Commission on Public Policy and British Business, based at the Institute for Public Policy Research. In doing so, he missed a golden opportunity to claim credit for some of the improvements in the economy which the report documents. In his attack, he was a lone voice. The report's analysis and recommendations have been widely acknowledged in the press as significant contributions to a reassessment of business policy.

This episode has taught me a lot about modern pre-election politics and the difficulties of having a genuine debate about policy in this country. Heseltine's scornful speech and furious comments to the press afterwards went beyond the bounds of rational, perhaps even sane, political behaviour. He clearly believed that his friends and contacts at the higher levels of industry should not even be seen talking to Tony Blair, let alone sharing a platform with him or producing a report endorsing some of Labour's commitments. And yet Mr Heseltine's greatest legacy will be one word that explains why so many business people admire him: competitiveness.

Having been at the launch and talked to the authors, I know that they were particularly galled by Mr Heseltine's accusation that the report simply endorses Labour's programme. They argue that the report's recommendations provide a challenge from the business community to both main political parties. It does recommend the introduction of a minimum wage and argues that Britain should accept the EU's social charter, but the reasoning is measured, and the report also criticises a number of other Labour policies.

For example, although the report calls for reform of competition policy, it rejects two planned Labour changes reversing the burden of proof in merger cases and abolishing the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, with the Office of Fair Trading. Responding to the report's criticisms, Tony Blair has announced the setting up of a panel to review Labour competition policy. Moreover, the report's recommendations in areas such as corporate governance, education and training, and transport are further-reaching than the Labour Party's current commitments. However, unlike Mr Heseltine, Mr Blair is prepared to discuss its analysis.

After the political dogfight over the report, it was clear that neither of the main parties has a monopoly over policies to boost competitiveness. The business community now clearly believes that the Labour Party's ideas for a competitive Britain deserve to be heard. Not long ago, they would hardly have been given the time of day. Labour is concerned with prosperity for all of Britain's citizens prepared to take the opportunities offered to them, whereas, whatever their intentions, the Tories' policies promise ever greater prosperity for the few at the expense of the many.

Mr Heseltine and his colleagues seem to think that further deregulation, particularly of the labour market, is the key to higher productivity and competitiveness. They may be right in believing that fear, whether of unemployment or wage cuts, effectively motivates people working in a sweatshop. But a commitment to improved education and training, a decent minimum standards, a living wage and a voice for employees in the workplace are more effective in the long term for companies in a developed country. We will never be able to compete with developing countries on labour costs alone, especially as globalisation gathers pace. Our sights need to be set on the firmer ground of high value-added goods and high-wage services.

In a recent report, Peter Robinson of the London School of Economics conclusively demonstrates that while extensive deregulation of the labour market is not responsible for the decline in British employment since 1993, it does explain much of the unwelcome increase in inequality since 1979. Inequality and prosperity are like oil and water; they do not mix. Further deregulation is not the answer.

The themes for future government policy suggested in *Promoting Prosperity* are more uplifting as well as correct. The report argues that the government should aim to promote competition between British companies and to operation within them: foster far-sighted management by improving relations between investors and management; improve skills; support small businesses and make policies more consistent. Government must provide a stable macroeconomic environment to enable British businesses to invest with confidence.

Although most of the report's authors would say that such a programme could be embraced by either of the main political parties, at the moment only the Labour Party is really on the right wavelength. Labour's practical proposals for small business, unveiled this week, are a further demonstration of this. There is a dialogue between politicians and business, but at present only one side of the political divide is taking part.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokeswoman in the Lords.

P.H.S.



A KOREAN GLIMPSE

One man who can unlock the window into Pyongyang

To China's evident embarrassment and annoyance, events have conspired to turn Hwang Jang Yop, the most senior North Korean official ever to defect, into the hero of a Cold War thriller. Mr Hwang, an intimate of the Kim dynasty and member of the central committee of North Korea's Workers' Party, slipped into the South Korean Embassy in Beijing on his way home from a seminar in Japan on *juche*, the ruinous Kim Il Sung doctrine of socialist self-reliance which he helped to invent. Implausibly but unsurprisingly, North Korea insists that he was kidnapped. South Korea protests that North Korean diplomats, who are lurking in cars around the compound, have tried to break into the compound to grab him back.

As a result of all this, China has the world's spotlight on it as it decides which of the Koreans to offend, its destitute old Communist ally or the valued investor and trading partner to the south. It would be understandable if it played for time; but it should then, on geopolitical allow Mr Hwang to leave for Seoul. As a trusted insider in North Korea's tiny and intensely secretive inner circle, he has vital intelligence about one of the world's most paranoid, heavily-armed, belligerent and unpredictable nations.

Mr Hwang may or may not have fled a power struggle at the top; even if he has not, the atmosphere of suspicion, his defection will engender could be enough to unleash one. Lacking firm evidence either way, Pyongyang watchers are fairly evenly divided as to whether Kim Jong Il, whose waxing personality cult has yet to be matched by his official confirmation in the posts held by his father, is firmly in control. Opinion is also divided as to whether North Korea is still bent on turning South Korea, in the words of its own propaganda, into "a sea of fire", or whether its spasmodic hints at

domestic reforms and a more reasonable diplomatic posture are to be taken seriously. Is North Korea close to uncontrollable starvation, as aid agencies claim and America is inclined to believe, or are the military sitting on huge grain stockpiles? Above all, is it deceiving Washington, which has taken a calculated and expensive risk that Pyongyang can be bribed into renouncing its nuclear weapons programme? On all these questions, Mr Hwang is in a position to give the most authoritative account.

This week, the United States responded to an international appeal with the promise of more food aid to avert "instability". There is no doubt that ordinary North Koreans are desperately hungry; but stabilising the regime that has reduced them to boiling grass is not obviously a solution. Since 1994, America has poured aid into North Korea—\$27 million worth of heavy fuel oil, \$18 million to secure weapons-grade nuclear material from misuse, \$8.4 million in food aid as well as this week's pledge of as much again, and even a \$2 million bribe for co-operation in recovering the remains of America's Korean War dead.

Against this aid, set an estimated \$89 million that the regime has spent on embalming and housing the body of Kim Il Sung and the \$130 million the Dear Leader, his son, has spent on beautifying his official residence. North Korea excels in two areas only—the arts of extorting money from others, first the Soviet Union and China and now the West, and those of military and diplomatic blackmail. There has been no lasting diplomatic return for America's largesse. Before shipping another grain, the US should debrief Mr Hwang. It should then look again at its Korea policy and ask what strategic advantage resides in so seeking to keep this despotic, cruel and irresponsible regime from its hour of truth.

DAY OF THE COW

Labour takes another crack at Conservative morale

Behind the catcalls in the Commons yesterday lies a happy coincidence of strategy and tactics for Labour. Strategically it makes sense to attack the Government for its clear failure in the BSE crisis. Tactically, it happens that the Ulster Unionists, whose votes are necessary to the Conservative whips, represent constituencies that have been badly hit by the beef ban.

Ministers may properly describe Labour's vote of censure on Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, as opportunistic. Oppositions, on the few days in the year allocated to them for debate, are normally supposed to seek embarrassment for the governing party. Parliament was not invented to be a prop or cheerleader to the Government. It is meant to be a check on the executive. And there are few sadder tales of executive inadequacy in this Parliament than that of "mad cow" disease.

Yesterday Tony Blair asked John Major to confirm four questions: was it true that no part of the beef ban had been lifted; that no cow had yet been culled under the selective slaughter scheme; that no proposal had even been put to the European Commission about exempting BSE-free herds in Scotland and Northern Ireland from the ban; and that BSE had so far cost the taxpayer £3.3 billion? The Prime Minister preferred to insult Mr Blair than to answer him. Only when pressed again did he confirm just one of the four claims: the size of the bill.

If Prime Minister's Questions were the communal proceedings on BSE, they proved that the Government had a clear case to answer. Over the past ten years, its record on beef has been lamentable. When the rules designed to prevent infection of human beings were introduced in 1986, they were not properly enforced; thus infected meat made its way into the food chain. When the

possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease was confirmed last year, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, insisted that British beef was perfectly safe while his colleague, Mr Hogg, talked of culling every British cow. Since then, we have seen a halt to all co-operation in Europe; this too achieved nothing. The Prime Minister came back from Florence last summer claiming that the ban would be lifted by November. It was not.

In less fertile times, this would be purely a matter of competence in government—or in this case, the lack of it. But these last weeks of a parliamentary term are different. However well or badly Mr Hogg acquits himself on Monday, the vote will be divided strictly down party lines. The Ulster Unionists are unlikely to vote with the Tories, but they may well abstain, which would be tantamount to ensuring a government victory. If they voted with the opposition parties, the result would depend on the efficiency of both sides' whips. Assuming every single MP attended, there would be a dead heat, with the Speaker casting her vote for the Government.

Labour is therefore highly unlikely to defeat the Tories on Monday. The party would probably even prefer not to. If it won, it would have to hold a subsequent vote of confidence, in which the Government would presumably gain some boost to Conservative morale. But that morale is flagging fast. With each week that passes without the Tories recovering their popularity, the prospects of a Labour victory look greater. Even if the Conservatives win on Monday, the spectacle of a close vote will add to the impression of a Government in a shambles and on the defensive. The party looks and acts as if it is under siege. That is no way to hold on to power.

THE BROADEST CHURCH

Dispute at St Paul's Cathedral reflects wider dissent

An ungodly row is raging at St Paul's Cathedral over the appointment of the Rev Lucy Winkett, its first female priest. Her conservative colleagues are on the warpath; the Rev John Halliburton, a distinctly loose canon, has declared that, while having "nothing against women", he cannot accept her authority and will not attend her services.

For all the bluster it should be relatively easy to fashion a compromise. The selection of Miss Winkett was inevitably contentious for a cathedral that has yet to introduce women choristers, never mind female clerics. There are more than enough resident male canons and visiting preachers at St Paul's for those traditionalists who feel they cannot in conscience accept Communion from Miss Winkett. To that degree the whole affair is more symbolic than substantive.

This row is, however, a reflection of the continued division that still besets the Church on the issue. Anglican authorities chose their path four years ago. St Paul's cannot exempt itself from it. On the whole the change has worked better than many then feared. Although Church attendance did show a disturbing drop in 1995, dire predictions that perhaps one third of Anglicans would flee their faith have not been vindicated.

One further encouraging sign is the much-needed increase in the numbers, of both sexes, who have entered the ministry since the momentous decision was made. Miss

Winkett personifies that trend. Indeed she comes with the sort of background—Oxford and the Royal College of Music—that was once regularly recruited into the Church but has recently been a rarity.

This degree of unity has only been secured by sensitivity towards those who could not support the ordination of women. Imaginative inventions such as the "flying bishop" have kept aboard many who might otherwise have departed. Traditionalist concerns will have been sharpened this week, however, by the publication of *The Church of England Year Book 1997*. In its opening pages, Dr David Edwards, Provost Emeritus of Southwark and a leading liberal, argues that there will not be a "very long future" for those opposed to women priests. Their numbers, he said, might diminish to the point where the Church should "review the arrangements" such as flying bishops designed to reconcile traditionalists.

This is not an approach that will do much for Anglicanism. The Church must continue to make means by which those like Miss Winkett can be brought in without forcing others like Canon Halliburton out. Nor should recent innovations, described by Dr Edwards as "anomalies", be seen as short-term expedients before conservatives see the error of their ways or are shown the exit. The Church of England can be a broad church or a Protestant sect. For St Paul's Cathedral, as elsewhere, the first route should be followed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Unjust' restrictions on free movement of art treasures

From Mr Patrick Matthiesen

Sir, May I comment on the plans announced by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, in the wake of the Sotheby's revelations, for setting up a research centre to fight the illicit trade in antiquities (report, February 12).

Everybody must deplore the wholesale looting of archaeological sites, whether from European "digs" or Asian temple complexes. In 1990, while the Khmer Rouge was still active in the Angkor Wat area, I witnessed the wholesale depredation of several outlying monuments and was amazed to find a large stone head weighing a ton turning up on the Dutch art market only six weeks later.

Clearly this form of looting for gain, when the integrity of the site is compromised and the country of origin's heritage is prejudiced, is unacceptable. Auction rooms should take strict steps to place a check on the recirculation of looted or stolen goods through their rooms.

However, unreasonable restrictions on the circulation of private property between member states of the EU are quite another matter. One of the objectives of the EU was the free circulation of goods. Various attempts at grasping this thorny nettle, where it relates to cultural goods, have failed conspicuously. It is this failure which continues to lead to abuse.

It is not unreasonable for a private individual to seek to realise the best possible market price for his legitimate possessions: after all, the right to hold and dispose of property is one of the basic precepts of a free country. Those countries which have realistic export licensing regulations (Britain, Germany and France amongst others) suffer less, if any, depredations to their heritage due to smuggling.

It is those countries (Italy and Greece in particular) which persist in adopting over-restrictive bureaucratic regulations that are the worst affected. Many of these countries are already financially strained in attempting to

protect or preserve their heritage in the public domain, yet continue to insist on attempting to control additional works, often of marginal interest, in the private sector.

Italy, over the last decade, has imported a far greater number of Old Master paintings than has been exported (either legally or illegally). Italian clients have been amongst the most voracious art buyers in Europe. Consequently the Italian cultural patrimony has been increased (though possibly the Italian Treasury has not seen the benefit of all the VAT to which it might feel itself entitled).

It is only by adopting a more open-handed and reasonable export licensing procedure, with a formula for purchasing goods on presentation for export and at their declared value, that the clandestine trade in works of art will diminish.

The present Italian system, as operated since 1974, amounts to little more than the expropriation of between 30 per cent and 60 per cent of the value of privately owned goods which have been officially submitted for export, by means of restricting them to the local market or, worse, listing them, thus subjecting them to a whole raft of additional restrictions.

Spain in particular has understood this and is now operating a far more flexible export licensing procedure. Yours faithfully, PATRICK MATTHIESEN (Director), The Matthiesen Gallery, 7-8 Mason's Yard, Duke Street, SW1, February 12.

From Mr Stephen Rossi

Sir, The English should be reminded that Italian laws regulating the export of paintings from Italy were largely formulated in 1918 and revised by Mussolini's Fascist Government in 1939. They have not been modified since.

All Italian works of art more than 50 years old, regardless of aesthetic

merit or monetary value, are subject to these laws. This includes those legitimately in the hands of private individuals. Every work intended for export must be reviewed by the Ministry of Culture and granted a licence. This applies to the removal of works to EU member nations. Works not granted export licences are listed as objects of national heritage and can be expropriated by the State at the declared export value. The effect of these laws is to impose severe restrictions on the free circulation of this particular type of private property.

Except for works of art that clearly form part of Britain's cultural identity, it is doubtful that citizens of this country would tolerate the sort of regime applied in Italy. In fact, the Italians themselves have little tolerance of their "art" laws and they express it by ignoring them.

Yours sincerely, STEPHEN ROSSI, 15 Meadowbrook Road, Dorking, Surrey, February 12.

From Mr Frank Dux

Sir, On February 7 you reported that among the issues which Sir Hugh Leggat, a former member of the Museums and Galleries Commission, wants explored is "the practice of dealers and auctioneers taking commission from both buyer and seller".

May I point out that it is only auctioneers who take double commission: one from the vendor and another from the buyer—a surcharge they call the buyer's premium.

Dealers do not surcharge their goods. Indeed, many of them consider the buyer's premium an abuse of the auctioneer's position—and that its legality is doubtful.

Yours sincerely, FRANK DUX, Frank Dux Antiques, 33 Belvedere, Bath, Somerset, February 10.

Practical chances of preserving Marconi archive intact

From Mr J. W. Sutherland

Sir, I am encouraged by the statement in Sir Geoffrey Partie's letter (February 12) that GEC-Marconi are in discussions with certain interested parties on "the question of keeping the [Marconi] archive together" and that "we shall be more delighted than anybody if this can be achieved". This is surely good news.

There is a possible way forward through arrangements for the collection to be acquired, housed, displayed and conserved in Chelmsford, where most of Guglielmo Marconi's pioneering work was done, under the joint auspices of Chelmsford and Essex councils. Alternatively, as Sir Geoffrey indicates, the Science Museum could retain its items on loan from the company, augmented by the items in the collection at Great Baddow. Either of these options would, as is proper, conform with the wishes of Eleonora Marconi, the daughter of the founder, as expressed in her letter of February 10.

The Marconi centenary initiative of setting aside a million pounds for a special programme including "Marconi Days" for teachers, to be administered by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, should be applauded. It continues the policy of investment in education and training which has characterised Marconi for many decades, through Marconi College, and within individual parts of the company.

This is an important initiative, with long-term benefits for both Marconi and the industry at large, but it should surely be funded from normal training budgets, if necessary at a higher priority than other schemes. It cannot justify the dispersal of the unique and historic Marconi archive.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SUTHERLAND, 610 Stow Road, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, February 12.

From Professor P. D. A. Harvey, Chairman of the British Records Association

Sir, No one could question the good intentions of Sir Geoffrey Partie in his plans for the early archives of the Marconi company. However, having sought expert opinion on the archives' condition, it is a pity he did not seek it also on their disposal. It would have told him, unanimously, that at all costs the papers—and the objects too—should be kept together, and could have suggested various strategies for achieving this. As it is, Sir Geoffrey is apparently proposing to sell them in several hundred separate lots.

To split up an integral archive in this way is like preserving a set of table silver by selling each fork and spoon separately: its function—its historical value—is all but destroyed. As Dr T. C. H. Going points out (letter, February 9) it is only two months since you allowed me to explain this in connection with the Brunel papers. It is appalling that the same fate should so soon threaten another archive of great historical and scientific importance.

Yours faithfully, PAUL D. A. HARVEY, Chairman, British Records Association, Lynnhurst, Farley Hey Road, Durham, February 12.

From Mr Patrick Leggatt

Sir, We must be grateful to *The Times* for giving good coverage to the proposed sell-off of the Marconi archive collection.

Over the past ten years the collection housed at Great Baddow near Chelmsford, has been excellently arranged and tended, first by the late archivist Betty Hance and then by Roy Rodwell, recently retired. While not open to the general public, both the equipment and the written archives

have always been available by appointment for examination by genuine students of wireless history.

The British Vintage Wireless Society visited Great Baddow during an international meeting in 1989. Members regarded it as the high spot of the three-day event, affording significant kudos to the Marconi Company and indeed to the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK LEGGATT, 28 High Park Road, Farnham, Surrey, February 10.

From Professor Peter Day, FRSE, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain

Sir, Writing about the proposed dispersal of the Marconi archive by GEC-Marconi Limited, Mr Bernard Kaukas (letter, February 12) perpetuates a most unfortunate misconception: in fact the Royal Institution is already privatised, as it has been since it was founded in 1799.

Therefore our custodianship of Faraday's coils and Davy's miners' lamps, to which Mr Kaukas refers and of which we are very proud, attracts no public subvention whatsoever. The cost of keeping a roof over the remarkable archive and the scientific memorabilia housed here falls on the Royal Institution's own resources. Apart from support from our members, those resources come from sponsorship and the gifts of well wishers.

Still, one is left with the substance of Mr Kaukas's question: if an organisation such as the Royal Institution can manage to conserve its share of our scientific heritage, why should not a large company, with very much greater resources, do the same?

Yours faithfully, PETER DAY, Director, The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, W1, February 12.

Tricked on TV

From the Chief Executive of Channel 4 Television

Sir, In her critique of our satire, *Brass Eye* ("Brassy but not bold", February 11) Libby Furves's squeamishness at the duping of some public figures and celebrities in the programmes has diverted her from the central point.

The series highlights how easily some people who command media attention can be persuaded to endorse a cause (however preposterous in this case) without even attempting to make the most rudimentary check. If, as a result of *Brass Eye*, such people exercise proper caution in future before allowing themselves to be used in this way, then Chris Morris, the creator of the series, has performed a public service.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GRADE, Chief Executive, Channel Four Television, 124 Horseferry Road, SW1, February 12.

Business letters, page 51
Sport letters, page 49

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Nuts from Brazil

From Mr Danny Connolly

Sir, On February 7, under the heading "Brazil nuts 'best way to protect nation's health'", you summarise a report in the *British Medical Journal*, including its claim that Brazil nuts are a rich natural source of selenium, a trace element which some scientists claim can bring back youthful vigour.

This is true only if the soil in which the nuts are grown is also rich in selenium. In a study published in 1989 (*Journal of Food Safety*, 9, 279-81) C. L. Seor described considerable variation in selenium content of individ-

ual Brazil nuts. For example, each Brazil nut sold in Britain in the shell is grown in the jungle area and contains around 100 micrograms of selenium. Shelled Brazil nuts are exported from a different area, where the soil is poor, and only contain 12-25 micrograms per nut.

To obtain the same amount of selenium one would have to stomach up to eight times as many shelled nuts as unshelled nuts.

Yours etc, DANNY CONNOLLY, 4 Woburn Mansions, Torrington Place, WC1, February 8.

Pylon plea

From Mr Jim Symington

Sir, Let us hope that the National Heritage Secretary will take note of Robert Worcester's inspired plea (article, February 8) that the lottery fund should both mark the millennium and touch the daily lives of us all, by contributing substantially towards the costs of the removal of every pylon from our landscape.

A wholehearted response to this coherent and timely challenge would display the capacity of the best of 20th-century technology to the full. Fur-

ther, this proposal offers a stunning opportunity for the privatised power utilities to reverse the continual damage which has been done to our environment by their industry since the 1930s.

Let them join with the Millennium Fund and demonstrate a tangible commitment to a clean Britain in the new century ahead.

Yours faithfully, JIM SYMINGTON, 11 Twin Cottages, Upper Stoneham, Uckfield Road, Lewes, Sussex, February 9.

Early exponents of product placement

From Mr Henry Burton

Sir, A shoe firm is suing a film-maker "for leaving out a scene shot at the company's expense as a thinly disguised advertisement" (report, February 10). This procedure is now known as product placement. When did it begin?

In 1763 the German dramatist, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, introduced a scene into his play, *Minna von Barnhelm*, in which one of the characters, the landlord of an inn, recommends a customer to try a glass of Danzig Goldwasser liqueur. The liqueur was first made, in Danzig, in 1598 and is still made, but not in Danzig.

Did someone suggest to Miss Austen that a mention of Emma's Broadwood pianoforte might boost the sales of that instrument? In *Pickwick Papers* Charles Dickens pointed out that Sam Weller, when cleaning boots and shoes at the White Hart, used Day & Martin's polish.

In a different field of activity, one wonders whether Manet was properly compensated for placing two bottles of Bass, with their distinctive red triangle, in his picture of the bar at the Folies-Bergère.

Yours faithfully, HENRY BURTON, 7 Amhurst Court, Grange Road, Cambridge, February 11.

Sathya Sai Baba

From Professor Keith B. Critchlow

Sir, Many of Christopher Thomas's disparaging references to Sathya Sai Baba, the Indian spiritual leader visited recently by the Duchess of York (report, January 31), emanate from the Indian Nationalists Association—a hardly an impartial body. They insult the most influential holy man in India today.

Three quarters of a million people turned up at Sathya Sai Baba's ashram to celebrate his 71st birthday last November, and there are clear, convincing and much-repeated scientific reports of the investigations that have been conducted into the authenticity of his personal powers.

There are strict rules in his worldwide organisation that ban the function of fundraising among his followers, and the finances which he has donated to build an immense speciality hospital (which I and other British architects and engineers had the privilege of designing and supervising) at Puttaparthi, south of Bangalore, were direct donations specifically for the project from grateful individual donors.

The schools, colleges and university founded by Sathya Sai Baba in Andhra Pradesh, many of them where none existed before, all contradict the negative comments by the Indian Nationalists Association. Neither the students at these establishments nor the patients at Puttaparthi hospital pay any fees whatsoever.

Yours, KEITH CRITCHLOW, 2 Larkhall Lane, SW4, January 31.

Cambridge dance

From Mr Steven Wooding

Sir, Contrary to Queens' College's assertion that "there is no dance in the university" of Cambridge (report, early editions, February 6), the Cambridge Dancers' Club is one of the largest university societies, with an annual membership of over 1,800. We run over 38 hours of classes a week, teaching styles ranging, from ballroom to rock 'n' roll, Latin American to stage dance. The club also supports three dance teams which compete nationally in student competitions.

Yours sincerely, STEVEN WOODING (President), Cambridge Dancers' Club, 1994-95, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, February 11.

Foot in mouth

From Mr Chris Martin

Sir, "You can't play Total Football," Howard Wilkinson, the new technical director of the Football Association, says, "if you can't all handle the ball" ("The state of the game", Sport, February 8).

Are we sure we have the right technical director?

Yours faithfully, CHRIS MARTIN, 189 Landells Road, SE22.

Top salaries freeze

From Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, and other QCs

Sir, As three of his devoted colleagues, we entirely agree with Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC (letter, today), that he should pay much more income tax. But he alone should pay this tax. As a consequence he will have to work harder and be left with less time to write misguided letters to *The Times*.

Yours faithfully, STANLEY BRODIE, DAVID HUNT, JONATHAN HARVEY, 2 Hare Court, Temple, EC4, February 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning presented the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace and afterwards Her Majesty and His Royal Highness gave a Reception.

The Princess Royal and The Duke of Kent were present. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the Welsh Cricket Association, this evening attended a Dinner at the Marriott Hotel, Swansea, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan (Mr Robert Hattie).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Duke of York, this morning visited Brades School and Shelter, Brades Estate, Montserrat.

His Royal Highness afterwards toured the Government Emergency Housing Scheme, Sweeney's Estate.

The Duke of York later visited Glendon Hospital, St John's.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Emergency Support Unit, St John's.

The Duke of York today inaugurated the Cable and Wireless microwave link between Montserrat and the United Kingdom.

His Royal Highness this afternoon met staff and residents at the Red Cross Shelter for the elderly, Cavalla Hill.

The Duke of York afterwards visited the Emergency Jetty Project, Little Bay.

His Royal Highness later departed Montserrat for Antigua.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London,

this afternoon attended the Presentation Ceremony at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, this evening attended a Reception for external students at the Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

YORK HOUSE
February 13: The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel John Stewart on assuming command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Archibald Miller-Bell on relinquishing the appointment.

His Royal Highness, as guest of honour, The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, attended a dinner at Guildhall, London EC2.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 13: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy and attended by the Lady Mary Muntford, left Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon to carry out official engagements in Hong Kong.

On arrival at the Airport, Her Royal Highness was received by Sir David Ford (Hong Kong Commissioner in London), Sir Roger Harvey (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), Mrs Valerie Scouler (British Airways Director of Customer Service) and Mrs Elizabeth Lowe (Special Facilities Officer, Heathrow Airport Limited).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mrs Christian Adams to be a Woman of the Bedchamber (Temporary) to Her Majesty.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will attend the general council at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire, at 10.25.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will open Manchester Carers Centre, Beswick House, Beswick Row, Manchester, at 11.40, and will visit Unipack to open the new pharmaceutical facility at Westhoughton, Bolton, at 1.15.

Appointment

Independent Schools Joint Council
Dr Alistair Cooke, OBE, has been appointed General Secretary of ISJC from September 1, 1997, in succession to Dr Arthur Heamond, OBE, who is retiring.

Birthdays today

The Prince of Liechtenstein celebrates his 52nd birthday today.

The Right Rev Peter Bell, former Bishop of Gloucester, and his twin brother, the Right Rev Michael Bell, Bishop of Truro, 65; Mr John Bamber, MP, 56; Sir John Clark, former chairman, The Plessey Company, 71; Professor Evelyn Elsworth, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 64; Sir Arnold Elton, consultant surgeon, 70; Sir Jack Hibbert, former director, Central Statistical Office, 65; Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, former chairman, Allied-Lyons, 74; Miss K.M. Jenkins, former director of personnel, Royal Mail, 52; Mr Kevin Keegan, former football

Memorial service

Mr David George Crickson, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr David George Crickson, former British Consul-General at Nice, was held yesterday at St Mary's, Battersea. The Rev Dr Timothy Gaden officiated and Mr Charles Crickson, son, read a Prayer. Miss Charlotte Ernest Crickson, granddaughter, gave a reading and Mr Adrian Crickson, son, paid tribute.

University news

Harrie Manchester College
The following have been elected as Honorary Fellows:

Sir Anthony Kenny, Lord Harris of Peckham, Lady Harris, the Hon Peter Harris, the Right Hon John Patten, MP, Mr Douglas Hutchinson, MC, CBE.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street for the Health Service.

Saddlery Company
Mr Will Price, Master of the Saddlery Company, presented prizes to the winners in the Society of Master Saddlers' annual and display competition at a reception held last night at Saddlery Hall.

The winners were: Class 1 and best in competition, Mr Lucy Hatcher; Class 2, Mr Michael Price; Class 3, Mr Neil Gardiner; Class 4 and 5, Mr Francis Kelly; Class 6, Mr Kinky Kelly; Class 7, Mr McDonald and Class 8, Mr Karen Scholten.

The London Institute
February 13: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the London Institute, and Sir William Stubbs, Rector, were the hosts at receptions held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Institute's Gallery at 65 Davies Street, London W1, to launch the Institute's Annual Report.

The guests included: Ambassadors, Members of Parliament and leading figures from the worlds of business, education and art and design.

The guests also had the opportunity to preview Foundations For Fame — an exhibition which includes work by eight distinguished former students: Mr Stephen Farthing, Mr Denis Forrester, Miss Nicola Hicks, Mr Zebek Jones, Mr Mike Leigh, Mr Ray Marley, Mr Julian Opie and Mr Ben Panning.

Luncheon
American Chamber of Commerce (UK)
Sir Brian Gosnell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK), was the chair at a luncheon held yesterday at the Whitehall Place in honour of Lord Saatchi.

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Mr C.A. Halborn, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the company's awards to City and Guilds Vocational Education Students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, Miss Pave Lath also spoke.

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Service dinner

RN College Greenwich
Commander J.M.C. Maughan, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the college. Mr Andrew Sachs, accompanied by Mrs Sachs, was the principal guest.

Dinners

Frutiger's Company
Alderman Sir Christopher Collett, Representative of the Mayor, accompanied by Lady Collett, attended the annual dinner of the Frutiger's Company held last night at Mansion House.

Mr Derek Tullett, Master, presided, assisted by the Wardens, and presented the Matchless Mack award for training within the fruit industry to Mr E.H. Worralter, honorary treasurer, Mr R.A. Arnold and Mr D. Mack also spoke. Prince Khalid al-Sabah, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Dean of Paul's, Mr Justice of the Peace, Mr Y. Matsuo of the Embassy of Japan were among the guests.

City and Guilds College
Association
Mr Michael Jeffries was the guest of honour and principal speaker at the annual dinner of the City and Guilds College Association held last night at Skipton Hall. Mr Bryan Spooner presided. Lord Ironside also spoke.

Church in Wales
Diocese of Llandaff
The Rev Robert Emylin Davies, Vicar of Cwmpure, to be Vicar of Aberdare.

Church news
Appointments
The Rev Dr Anne Dawtry, Assistant Curate, Parkers, St Peter's, Branksome, and St Edmund Team Ministry; to be Chaplain to Bournemouth University and Poole College of Art and Design (Salisbury).

The Rev Edward Dixon, Chaplain, HM Prison, Durham (Durham); to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Aycliffe (Newcastle). The Rev Robert Dixon, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Southwicks.

The Rev William Gland, Rector, to be Rector of that benefice (Durham).

The Rev Peter Eltringham, Chaplain to HM Young Offender Institution, Cusworth, Northumbria; to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Durham (Durham).

The Rev Malcolm Fenwick, Vicar, Riding Mill, Priest-in-charge, Whitton, and Rural Dean of Carisbrooke (Newcastle); also an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

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Jennifer Hirsch, a student in the tropical section at Kew, with a cymbidium hybrid.

Kew celebrates with orchids

By ALAN TUGGON
HORTICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE annual Kew Orchid Festival, which opens today, is a lavish display of more than 3,000 plants. But it also serves to highlight the orchid conservation work in various parts of the world undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Kew is currently helping to protect the unique wild orchids of Madagascar which are under threat from illegal collecting and habitat damage. The Orchid Unit is propagating plants from seed donated by Madagascar and returning seedlings to that country. They are initially being grown in the Tinsborough botanical garden but it is hoped that flowers will be returned to the wild.

A number of Madagascar orchids will be on view during the course of the festival, the main displays of which are in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. The Madagascar Angraecum

Eburnum, a moth-pollinated orchid with white, green-spurred flowers, can be seen in the tropical section of the conservatory.

This section features many rare species such as the diminutive red-flowered *Phragmipedium Besseae* from Ecuador plus flamboyant cattleya, phalaenopsis and oncidium hybrids, and not forgetting a large rampant specimen of the vanilla orchid, the source of vanilla flavouring which is carrying seed pods and promises to flower again during the festival.

Another display in the tropical section shows how orchids have adapted to their environment. Some epiphytic orchids produce aerial roots which absorb moisture from the atmosphere; others produce pseudobulbs for storing nutrients and water, or have reduced leaves to enable them to combat drought.

The floral display area of the conservatory contains the main selection of orchid hybrids. Here yellow and brown orchids are creating a bright splash of colour among the pastel shades of cymbidiums, phalaenopsis (moth orchids) and miltonias.

The cool temperate section also features fine displays of hybrid orchids plus a fascinating collection of small species housed in a display case. These include the Australian *Dendrobium Speciosum* with sprays of yellow flowers and *Pterostylis Hildae* with green and white hooded flowers which temporarily trap small insects for the purpose of pollination.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.F. Dobbs
and Miss K. Lewis.
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Sir Richard and Lady Dobbs, of Castle Dobbs, Co Antrim, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Lewis, of Kensington, London.

Mr A.B. Baines
and Miss H.J.R. Taylor.
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr Brian Baines and of Mrs Baines, of Scarscroft, Yorkshire, and Anna Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian McEvoy, of Wrotham, North Somerset.

Mr T.C. Bridges
and Miss A.J. Gahide.
The engagement is announced between Thomas Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Paul W. Bridges, of Rochester, New York, and Anna Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian McEvoy, of Wrotham, North Somerset.

Mr A.J. Cullen
and Miss S.J. Lee.
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mrs Joan Cullen and the late Mr George Cullen, of Kent, and Sarah (Rah), daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Lee, of Sussex.

Mr W.T. Cross
and Miss L.V. Benders.
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr Michael Cross, of Horn, East Sussex, and Mrs Jill Cross, of Newton Ferrers, Devon, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Benders, of Lodeworth, West Sussex.

Mr J.H.B. de Vries
and Miss C.A. O'Brien.
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr Francis de Vries, of Middleburn, Northumberland, and Mrs Frances de Vries, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Chloé, daughter of Mr George O'Brien and Mrs Virginia Alexander, of Saint Lucia, West Indies.

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OBITUARIES

JOHN HORNER

John Horner, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, 1939-64, and Labour MP for Oldbury and Halesowen, 1964-70, died on February 11 aged 85. He was born on November 5, 1911.

If the Fire Brigades Union was weak when Jack Horner was first elected to lead it in 1939, within a year it was expanding at a rapid rate. The London Blitz was making heavy demands on firefighters. Brigades, constantly in action, were braving dangers and incurring casualties which matched those of many a military unit in battle. Despite sleepless nights, Horner dealt with these emergencies with calm efficiency and, when the war was over, continued to preside over the business of the union for some twenty years.

In his subsequent career as a politician, however, Horner did not meet with the same long-term success. When his career as an MP terminated abruptly he was forced to retire, though he still had much to contribute.

The son of an illiterate labourer, John Horner grew up in the solidly working-class London borough of Walthamstow. On leaving a local school he became a merchant seaman, made several voyages to South America, and qualified as a second mate.

After a few years he came ashore and joined the Fire Service in London. He soon became active in the Fire Brigades Union, then a weak union enrolling only a minority of firemen. In 1939 he was chosen to be general secretary at the early age of 28. He had

no office and no telephone. Only a year later, with the London Blitz, Horner found himself at the head of a rapidly expanding organisation. He had to cope with countless emergencies as well as with the training of recruits to the wartime Auxiliary Fire Service, among them the poet Stephen Spender.

As the war went on, he spent much of his time dashing between cities which had been severely damaged in air raids. He saw little of his wife Pat, whom he had married in 1936. She and their two young daughters found refuge in Oxford, which fortunately was never bombed.

In 1945, like others inspired by Soviet resistance to Hitler, Horner joined the Communist Party. It was a step he came to regret, particularly as he had been offered a nomination as a Labour candidate in the anticipated general election. Had he found a place with Michael Foot and Barbara Castle in the remarkable Labour intake of 1945, his life would have taken a different turning. Instead, he devoted the next two decades to the union and to changes in the Fire Service.

That service is proud of its democratic structure, with promotion through the ranks to the very top, and no room for the superannuated politicians or generals who became chairmen of other nationalised industries. Horner established excellent relations with Chief Fire Officers in the cities and counties, who had manned the hoses as he had. The emphasis of the work was turning to fire prevention; old buildings were overhauled to ensure safety, the architects of new buildings consulted fire experts, and a



stringent code of new regulations came into force. Horner made himself an expert in the developing techniques and a relentless opponent of cost-cutting and carelessness. We shall never know how many people owe him their lives.

Meanwhile, he was a valued asset to the Communist Party and a member of its executive committee. But he grew increasingly critical of the party's efforts to dictate the policies of unions in which it had influence, as well as of the subordination of Communist

parties in the West to the interests of the Soviet Union. The suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 was the last straw. Horner left the CP, taking with him all the other Communists in the leadership of the FBU.

His political activity was now in the Left of the Labour Party and especially in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament after its foundation in 1958. He decided at last to go into Parliament, was selected for the Oldbury and Halesowen constituency in the

Birmingham area, and won it in the 1964 and 1966 elections. His closest friend — they shared a Westminster flat — was Norman Buchanan, also an ex-Communist and a CND campaigner. However, while Buchanan briefly held junior office in Harold Wilson's Government, Horner did not adjust himself easily to parliamentary politics.

In 1970 Wilson was ejected from Downing Street and Horner from the Oldbury seat. He ascribed this to his lack of wisdom in canvassing

STEPHEN FITZ-SIMON

Stephen Fitz-Simon, founder of the Biba boutique, died on January 16 aged 59. He was born on March 5, 1937.

ATTEMPT to all that was hip in the swinging Sixties, the Biba boutique in London's Kensington was the brainchild of Stephen Fitz-Simon and Barbara Hulanicki. She was the stylist, he was the business brain; together they sent the established world of fashion retail into a spin. They offered cut-price glamour and disposable glitz: slinky skirts and feather boas, long suede boots and sequined jackets. The Biba girl was an embodiment of the spirit of her age.

Born in Surbiton the son of a motor engineer, Stephen Charles Fitz-Simon was educated by Jesuits at Beaumont College. But he was to retain few characteristics of this conventional upbringing — except perhaps his laconic drawl. On leaving school he began work with an advertising agency and, though he rose to become an accounts executive with the company, he preferred to recall his time there as one spent playing darts and drinking in dodgy London pubs.

Rakishly good-looking, he was a familiar figure at parties and it was at one of these that he first met the stylish young fashion illustrator Barbara Hulanicki. Two years were to elapse before they met again, by which time Fitz-Simon was engaged. He broke off the engagement to marry Hulanicki in 1961.

It was Fitz-Simon who first encouraged his wife to set up a mail order clothes business, marketing her own designs. The Biba Postal Boutique — Biba being the pet name of Hulanicki's sister — got off to a satisfactory start. Then, less than a year later, it soared to spectacular success. In one month some 17,000 pink gingham dresses with matching headscarves were sold.

Barbara Hulanicki opened her first boutique in a former chemist's shop in a Kensington side street. Fitz-Simon, who by this time had left the advertising agency, joined her. Although he was later to joke, his offices would be commandeered as a changing room and board meetings would be held in the bath, it was his sharp understanding of how the retail business works which led to the shop's success.

In 1965 Biba moved to Kensington Church Street. Sales continued to boom and a mail order catalogue was launched. Fitz-Simon kept careful control of a rapidly

expanding business. It was said that he could price a dress at ten paces. But if he was warmly good-natured in daily life, concerned that the customers should enjoy Biba as much as he did, celebrating successful days' takings with his glass of champagne for his staff, he was sharp and thrusting in business, driving hard bargains and negotiating tight deals.

In 1969 Biba changed premises again, this time to Kensington High Street. The Fitz-Simons sold 75 per cent of their business to Dorothy Perkins to finance the move. Hulanicki, however, had her heart set on buying another nearby Art Deco building, the once beautiful hulk of the former store, Derry & Toms. In 1972 Fitz-Simon bought it for her and the Biba boutique made its final move.

The demise of Biba began when Dorothy Perkins was taken over by British Land. Despite the fact that it was the distinctive style and vision of Fitz-Simon and Hulanicki that had made the boutique what it was, they found their opinions increasingly disregarded by the board of directors. The soul of the venture gradually melted away and with it, increasingly, the profits. In 1975 the store was declared bankrupt and closed. The Biba label — seized as an asset — was sold. It belongs today to Ellen Shek, the Hong Kong entrepreneur.

From then on the Fitz-Simons led an unsettled life. They emigrated to Brazil where they opened a shop in São Paulo for a while before, uncomfortable with the disparity of lifestyle between rich and poor, they returned to England. But the mood of grasping ambition in 1980s England did not suit their Sixties sensibilities either. Although they established a new cosmetics business and opened another small shop, they stayed just five years, before moving to Miami in 1987, where Barbara had been commissioned to design a nightclub for the Rolling Stones star Ronnie Wood.

In Miami she built up a career as a designer. Fitz-Simon occupied himself with a number of projects, including working on several novels. The energy and speed of change in Miami at that time was evocative of the Sixties.

In April last year they moved once again, this time to New York, where they opened a new shop. Fitz-Simon was a short-lived project and closed six months later when Fitz-Simon fell ill.

Fitz-Simon leaves his widow and son.



Stephen Fitz-Simon with his wife Barbara

BOHUMIL HRABAL



the screenplay. The film won an Oscar in 1967 as the best foreign film, and suddenly Hrabal had a reputation in the West. A translation of his novel into English became an

Bohumil Hrabal, Czech novelist and short story writer, died after falling from the fifth-floor window of a Prague hospital on February 3 aged 82. He was born in Brno on March 28, 1914.

SINCE he did not begin writing until he was almost fifty, the creative career of Bohumil Hrabal coincided very largely with the period of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia. Yet his subversiveness is not simply a matter of protest against that particular form of totalitarianism. Rather it is the age-old revolt of the Czech spirit against any form of foreign domination, a tendency which reaches back to the Middle Ages.

It is a subversiveness Hrabal shares with his great compatriot Jaroslav Hasek, whose keen sense of the absurdity of attempting to impose bureaucratic order on the fundamental unruliness of the human spirit he shares.

His masterpiece, the novel *A Close Watch on the Trains* (1965, or 1968), in many ways

recalls Hasek. Time has moved on: the collapsing Austro-Hungarian Empire has given way to the death throes of the Nazi regime in Czechoslovakia as the Russians approach its eastern borders. But the ingredients of hilarity and absurdity are there.

Yet Hrabal's anti-hero, the assistant station master Mikoš Hirma, is no mere copy of Hasek's Lord of Misrule, the Good Soldier Švejk, a man for whom the laughter simply never stops. Hirma is assailed by doubts on all levels, notably fear of sexual failure and the ridicule it will bring. His progress through life is always in danger of being cut short before his potential can be realised. There is a poignancy in his final achievement of a heroic resolve which leads him on a suicidal mission to blow up a German ammunition train.

The book appeared during a period of comparative thaw and gave rise to the film *Closely Observed Trains* (1966), by the writer-director Jiri Menzel, with whom Hrabal co-operated closely on

Immediate priority, and appeared the following year. Though born in Brno, Bohumil Hrabal was largely raised in Nymburk, 20 miles northeast of Prague, where his father was a brewery manager. After leaving school he began to study law at Charles University, Prague. But in March 1939 the Germans occupied Prague, completing the rape of Czechoslovakia they had begun the previous October, in the wake of the Munich betrayal. It was a grim time for intellectuals. Czechoslovakia's leading writer, Karel Capek, had just died in his forties, his heart, it was said, "pierced by the felle of Chamberlain's umbrella". More pertinently, as far as Hrabal's studies were concerned, the Nazis closed the country's universities.

During the war years Hrabal worked on the railways, which gave him the wry insights into the running of the country's railroad network during wartime that were to form much of the background to *A Close Watch on the Trains*.

In 1946 he completed his studies at Charles University with a doctorate, but he was never to practise as a lawyer. By 1948 Czechoslovakia's brief period of postwar liberty was at an end. Again the country was no place for intellectuals with any moral rectitude. Hrabal worked successively as a travelling salesman, in a steelworks and in a warehouse. Finally he took a job as a stagehand, thus inching his way slowly towards a career in literature to which, in the 1960s, he devoted himself exclusively.

The thaw which was to develop into the liberalisation of the "Prague Spring" of 1968 was by then under way. In 1963 Hrabal had a short story, *Little Pearl on the Bottom*, published, and it met a favourable reception. He was now a writer. The Czech film industry was also benefiting from the new, liberal climate and some of his stories were filmed as shorts by the country's "new wave" film-makers.

With the translation of *A Close Watch on the Trains* into English in 1966 and the filming of the collection of short stories, *Pearls of the Deep*, in 1968 Hrabal's reputation became an international one. But the enlightened regime which had made this artistic flowering possible was shortly to be brutally suppressed. In August 1968 Warsaw Pact troops invaded the country and the liberal experiment of Alexander Dubcek was at an end.

A purge of Czech culture then ensued. All Hrabal's work was banned and the entire editions of two of his unpublished books which were still at the printers were destroyed. Thereafter, for eight years, his works were circulated only in typewritten samizdat editions. In 1975 he gave an interview to a literary magazine in which he appeared to express some support for the Husak regime. This led to a partial lifting of the ban on publishing his works and the printing of some rather conventional material was permitted. But it bore little relation to the unexpurgated texts which were circulating in secret.

After the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989 Hrabal was criticised for what had been seen as a capitulation to the Communist regime. But he continued to be a popular writer, his books selling in Czechoslovakia in their thousands. A collection of short stories, *The Death of Mr. Balisberger*, which appeared in Britain in 1977, was in fact earlier work, having appeared in Czechoslovakia in 1966. A rambling, stream-of-consciousness commentary on the state of the world had been emerging from Czech presses since the late 1980s.

In old age Hrabal loved to frequent the Prague bars and was a familiar sight in his favourite, the Golden Tiger. He enjoyed a glass of beer with President Clinton during the latter's visit to the city in 1994.

His wife died in 1988; there are no survivors.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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FRENCH BASE CAPTURED.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, Feb 13

Lieutenant Cadogan, acting as commander of his Majesty's ship the *Cerberus*, arrived here this morning with dispatches from Vice-Admiral Bertie, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels at the Cape of Good Hope, to John Wilson Croker, Esq., Secretary to the Admiralty, of which the following are copies: Aden, Port Louis, Isle of France, Dec. 6, 1810.

Sir—I have the honour to acknowledge to you, for the information of their Lordships, the capture of the Isle of France and its dependencies, comprehending the extinction of the naval force of the enemy in these seas, and the subjugation of the whole of the enemy's ships on the harbour, and two only apparently in a state of forward equipment, I left Capt. Bowley with the *Bodica*, *Nimrod* and *Nereide* to watch the movement of the enemy and having previously detached the *Cerberus* and *Saunder* to convey the division of troops from Bourbon to Rodriguez, I proceeded with the Commander of the force, (Major-General the Honourable John Abercromby) who

ON THIS DAY

February 14, 1811

With the capture of the Isle of France, a French trading post and naval base in the Indian Ocean, Napoleon's hopes of victory at sea were finally dashed.

had embarked in the *Africaine* towards that anchorage. On the 26th I was joined by Rear Admiral Drury, with a division of his squadron, and was enabled to strengthen the blockading squadron, by detaching the *Cornelia* and *Heber* for that purpose; and with the others made sail for Rodriguez, where the squadron arrived on the 3rd of November and found lying there the division of troops from Bourbon; on the 6th arrived the division from Madras under command of the *Psyche* and *Conwallis*.

The divisions from Bengal and the Cape, not arriving by the 20th, the season being so far advanced, and the anchorage surrounded by a redoubtable force of troops, more particularly for so large a number of ships, I determined on weighing with the whole fleet on the morning of the 22nd, proposing the conveyance should cruise [sic] to windward until joined by one or other of the divisions. Very fortunately intelligence was received on the night of the 21st that the Bengal division, under the command of the *Conwallis*, was in the offing. General Abercromby deemed it as well as myself, advisable they should not anchor; but that, having communicated with the convey, we should proceed to the attack of the Isle of France, without waiting the junction of the troops expected from the Cape. The whole fleet accordingly weighed from the anchorage, and on the morning of the 22nd bore up for the point of destination. It had been determined to occupy in Grande Baye, about twelve miles to windward of Port Louis, where the *Africaine* leading in and the several ships of war following with the convey, according to a previous arrangement the whole fleet was at anchor by ten o'clock a.m., consisting of nearly 20 sail; and the army, with their artillery, stores and ammunition, the several detachments of marines serving in the squadron, with a large body of seamen, disembarked the same day, without a single loss or accident; a division of ships still maintained a vigilant blockade of the port, another division remained for the protection of the convey at the anchorage; and a third under my immediate command shifted their stations as circumstances required, to keep up a more effectual communication with the army as it advanced, and which was dependent for its supplies of provisions and stores wholly on the resources of the navy.

NEWS

Peers reject mandatory sentencing

Michael Howard promised to overturn changes to his tough new sentencing plans after the Government suffered an eight-vote defeat on its law and order policy in the Lords.

A line-up of peers, former Tory ministers and judges, including three past and present Lord Chief Justices, backed a cross-party move giving judges greater sentencing discretion. The changes give judges power to set aside the mandatory minimum sentences. Page 1

IRA victim tells of soldier's death

The woman who narrowly escaped death in the IRA sniper attack told how Lance Bombardier Stephen Rosterick was shot in the back as he stood smiling at her. Lorraine McElroy, 35, a Roman Catholic, said: "I just wanted to go and hold him because he was so alone and he was dying." Pages 1, 4

Britain in Iran

Britain is to sponsor a stand at an energy fair in Tehran in April, encouraging British firms to invest in Iran's gas and oil industry in defiance of the American sanctions. Page 1

Leads demand

A former Tory minister called for the interrogation of senior colleagues on oath as part of a public inquiry into leaks from a Commons committee. Page 2

Doctor jailed

A doctor who failed to perform a simple test that could have saved the life of a young father and then tried to falsify his records was jailed for manslaughter. Page 3

Search for love

Private detectives are being hired for up to £500 a case to find the anonymous senders of Valentine cards. They use modern surveillance technology and handwriting analysis. Page 6

Lawrence claim

The parents of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager murdered at a bus stop, were planning a civil action for damages against the five white men originally accused of killing him. Page 6

Cancer success

Deaths from breast cancer are falling among women under 65 because tumours are being spotted earlier. Page 8

Major wins the romantic vote

John Major says in a Valentine's Day interview that marriage was the most significant event of his life and far more important than becoming Prime Minister. But Tony Blair in *Cosmopolitan*, which features the Labour leader in its directory of the 100 sexiest men alive, says the most significant event of his life was "becoming party leader". Page 1

New leaf

A Church of England bishop has given up the Bible for Lent. The Bishop of Jarrow, Dr Alan Smithson is reading the Koran instead. Page 9

Korean suspense

The suspense surrounding the apparent defection of a North Korean leader to a South Korean diplomatic compound in Beijing showed no sign of letting up as Seoul sent a delegation. Page 13

New Rushdie row

Attempts by the Iranian Government to play down a fresh row over Salman Rushdie suffered a setback when the country's Revolutionary Guards insisted that the novelist be murdered. Page 14

Jobs poll

An opinion survey shows that a majority of South Africans are against the affirmative-action hiring practices that are a centrepiece of government policy and nearly universal in the private sector. Page 15

Smugglers return

Smugglers in Albania have taken advantage of a police withdrawal and taken back 100 speedboats that had been confiscated. Page 16

Clinton donations

The Chinese Embassy was used to channel illegal donations to help President Clinton's re-election, said the man who helped to uncover Watergate. Page 17



Armed police outside the High Court yesterday during the search for a woman who had threatened judges with a gun. Page 1

BUSINESS

Pearson: Unauthorised discounts offered by a junior employee of Penguin USA have cost Pearson, owner of the book publisher, £100 million. Page 27

Chubb: The security group is expected to announce an agreed takeover bid today from an unknown bidder valuing the company at up to £1.25 billion. Page 27

Economy: The chance of hitting the Chancellor's inflation target by the end of the current Parliament receded with news that underlying inflation remained stubbornly unchanged in January. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 22.8 to 4327.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.2 to 97.8 after a fall from \$1.6332 to \$1.6222 and from DM2.7492 to DM2.7367. Page 30

Football: Brighton lost an appeal against a two-point deduction imposed by the FA after pitch invasions during their game against Lincoln in October. Page 52

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain and Great Britain scrum half, was given an eight-match suspension for a head-high tackle in the cup match against Wigan. Page 52

Motor racing: Three top Formula One teams, Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell, are facing combined losses of £100 million because of a feud with rivals. Page 46

Racing: Dorans Pride, one of the leading favourites for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, fell at the penultimate fence in the Kinloch Brae Chase at Thurles. Page 47

Arts on the box: The cable and satellite revolution is going to bring a feast of arts coverage to the small screen, at least for those who are prepared and able to pay for it. Page 40

Dramatic lows: Peter Gill's new play for the National Theatre, *Cardiff East*, is essentially a pessimistic but compelling view of life today on a housing estate in Cardiff. Page 40

Living dinosaurs: Aerosmith are back, cleaned up, not washed up, and they have a brilliant new album to prove it. Page 41

Stepping out in style: Rambert Dance Company's spring tour features two new works by Kim Brandstrup and Christopher Bruce. Page 42

Trained to wed: Penny Mansfield, director of One Plus One, tells Valerie Grove how people can make their marriages work. Page 19

State of the Union: Why does the Oxford Union invite speakers who are famous only for being infamous? Page 18

How bizarre: The cult of believing in daft things seems to be experiencing a dramatic revival. Page 18

League overload: Despite teachers' objections, two more sets of league tables are being introduced, and will continue. Page 45

Must do better: Is teacher appraisal finally going to be about identifying and weeding out poor teachers? Page 45

Winning ideas: The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education. Pages 35-38

5, 14, 23, 29, 38, 45. Bonus: 47. The jackpot was shared by 18 ticket-holders who each won £555,555. 33 winners got £36,281 for five numbers and the bonus; and 1,171 won £669 for five numbers.

From next week the winning numbers in the midweek draw will be listed in *The Times Today* on Thursdays.

IN THE TIMES

WEEKEND
Robert Crampton joins the lads in search of Sunday league football glory

DIRECTORY
Your complete guide to the week ahead including full TV and radio listings

Preview: Amanda Burton's pathologist is back in the morgue. *Silent Witness* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond is starved by the sex life of the bonobos. Page 51

A Korean glimpse

China has the world's spotlight on it as it decides which of the Koreans to offend, its destitute old Communist ally or the valued investor and trading partner. Page 21

Day of the cow

Behind the catcalls in the Commons yesterday lies a happy coincidence of strategy and tactics for Labour. Strategically it makes sense to attack the Government for its clear failure in the BSE crisis. Page 21

The broadest Church

The Church of England can be a broad church or a Protestant sect. For St Paul's Cathedral, as elsewhere, the first route should be followed. Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

Shotgun and rifle-owners had better start praying to every God they and David Mellor recognise. The will of the people is a capricious thing, and arrives on little cat's feet. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Mr Brown wants to show that he is not only the Iron Chancellor in waiting but that he also has radical instincts. A Labour Government could make a difference though it would be along very different lines from what Anthony Crosland envisaged. Page 11

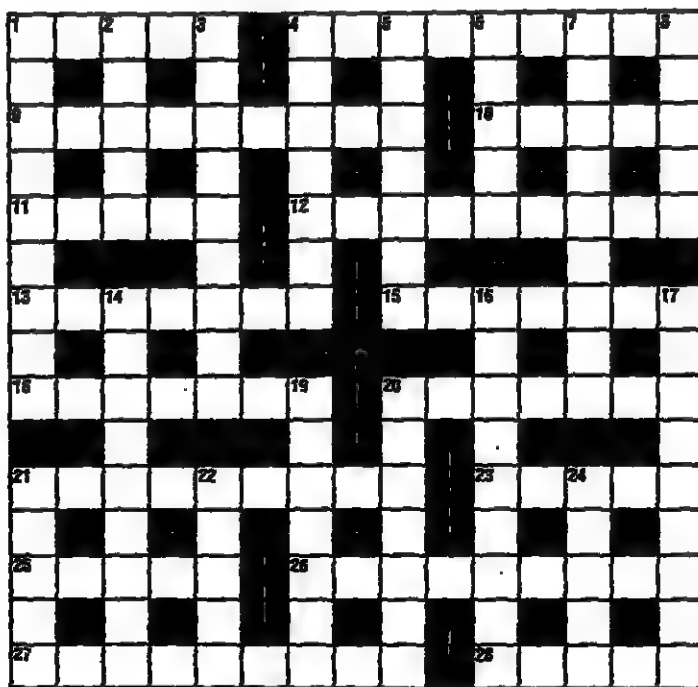
PHILIP HOWARD

When Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the most truculent teachers' union, said that to call the Government's latest education fiddles Draconian was an insult to Draconia, there were hoots and shrieks. Page 20

John Horner, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union; and MP Stephen Fitz-Simon, founder of Biba; Bohumil Hrabal, Czech novelist. Page 23

Restrictions on movement of art treasures; product placement; the Marconi archive; Michael Grade on "Brass Eye". Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,403



- ACROSS**
- As a booty prize it's wooden club (5).
 - Bird providing picnic meal? (9).
 - Floral necklace certainly makes one relaxed (9).
 - Rotten nuisance, having such an attack of lassitude (5).
 - Scoundrel has to leave hiding (5).
 - Trace a bright spark (9).
 - Raised little money, unfortunately, back in city (7).
 - Having a quick one - bitter? (7).
 - Feature on drink in public discussion (5-2).
 - Bright little spot in naughty Naples about midnight (7).
 - Smash to get point - or a foot-fault? (6-3).
 - Followed pronouncement in pamphlet (5).
 - Take any number under ten - understand? (5).
- DOWN**
- Felt so dumb, perhaps, avoiding motorway to show lack of confidence (4-5).
 - Not starting cutting down, though in debt (5).
 - Nervous patient taking new Continental course? (9).
 - Plant removes obstacles from road going north (7).
 - Delightful vivacity about youth leader is uplifting (7).
 - Put up dirty sort of shirt that's hung out (5).
 - Revealing once a year without a fish (9).
 - Girl I caught in time (5).
 - Ragged gamine taking part in sort of game (9).
 - Down-to-earth sort of joke (9).
 - Big-head's fame (9).
 - Harassed, it's clear, and influenced (7).
 - Behaves harshly towards boy from another union (7).
 - Herculean effort finally halted its capital growth (5).
 - Celebrate former tax being cut (5).
 - A fool's change of heart, becoming mature (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,402

REVENUE
LARCH
HOUSEMAN
REPAIRS
ESTERICH
POORPOOR
ESTATE
GAREHNS
ROUND
COMPANIES
SEVENTEENTH

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
N25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Channel crossings 0336 401 938
Motorway to Motorway 0336 407 505
to Glasgow airports 0336 407 505

Weather by Fax

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax
Vern Country 410 336 Scotland 410 340
Wales 410 335 N Ireland 410 341
Midlands 410 336 London 410 342
S. East 410 337 National Seafile 410 338
N. East 410 339 pictures 410 397
Mediafax Marine 410 398
forecast future forecasts 410 398

World City Weather

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Motoring

Europe Country by Country 0336 401 888
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UK Stages 0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

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Dial from your fax machine, you may have to wait for a message
0336 410 399

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Here 14.5°C, Kent 11.0°C, lowest day temp: Loch Gairloch, Highland, 4.0°C, highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 1.0in, highest sunshine: Southmouth, 8hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up of 100% recycled material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

SUDAFED

Nasal Congestion

THE UNBLOCKER

For the Unblocked

General: most of England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells, but cloud in the South West will be thick enough to bring a little rain to southernmost coastal counties during the day. Winds will be fairly light overall and, after some local frost, temperatures will be about normal.

In northern Scotland, rain will turn more showery but will fall as snow on the hills. Other parts, as well as Northern Ireland, will be mostly dry with sunny spells and some showers, these mainly in the west. It will still be quite breezy, but temperatures will be close to average, after a touch of frost in places.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales: dry with some sunshine, albeit rather hazy at times. Wind west or variable light. Max 8C (46F).

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England: mostly cloudy. Rain at times, but drying out later. Wind southeast or east, moderate.

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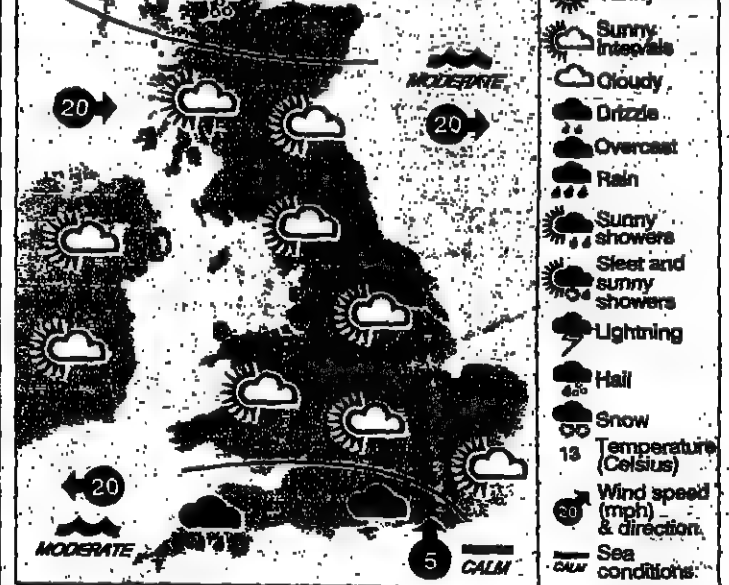
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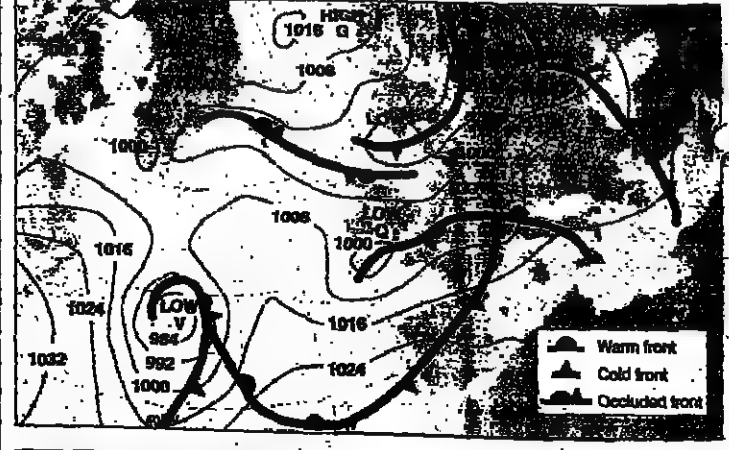
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Changes to the chart below from noon: low V will move northeast and deeper; lows S and Q will drift southeast, slowly filling; high G will build and drift southeast, pushing low P east



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THE TIMES

2

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SECTION2
TODAY

ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky
says stop knocking
the Bank of England
PAGE 31

EDUCATION

Is the Eton game
perfect for
the inner city?
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SPORT

Why is Le Tissier
so reviled? Lynne
Truss finds out
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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14 1997

Doubts grow over inflation target

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor's chances of hitting his inflation target by the end of the current Parliament receded yesterday with news that underlying inflation remained stubbornly unchanged in January.

Underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments and which the Government has pledged to reduce to 2.5 per cent or less by the election, stuck at 3.1 per cent last month, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Headline inflation jumped to 2.8 per cent from 2.5 per cent in December, almost entirely due to the fact that mortgages rose this January but fell at the same stage last year. This was anticipated by the City but there was disappointment about underlying inflation.

However, analysts said that the news was not bad enough to force Kenneth Clarke to raise interest rates in the run-up to the election. The main upward pressure on the underlying rate came from seasonal food prices which were boosted by higher prices for vegetables because bad weather hit supplies.

On the positive side, January sales saw even steeper discounting than last year, a sign that retailers are still not managing to raise their margins despite apparently robust demand. Household goods prices fell 3.6 per cent, the biggest fall in any January since this series began in 1956. Clothing and footwear prices fell 5.3 per cent, the largest January fall since comparable records began in 1947.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Serious commentators, including the Bank of England in their Inflation Report this week, expect inflation to fall back over the coming months." She cited this week's low producer prices figures and sterling's strength as reasons to believe that inflation remains under control.

The inflation news came the day after the Bank's Inflation Report, which reiterated its view that a moderate rate rise is needed if the Government is to hit its inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less in two years' time. The Bank said that sterling's strength would see inflation fall sharply in the short-term but then increase to 3 per cent "and rising" by the end of 1998 if interest rates were unchanged.

The Chancellor still opposes a rates rise.
Economic View, page 31

Pearson hit by £100m Penguin discount bill

By ERIC REGULY

UNAUTHORISED discounts offered by a junior employee of Penguin USA have cost Pearson, owner of the book publisher, £100 million.

The employee, an American woman who worked in Penguin's accounts department in New Jersey, had been offering discounts since 1991 on book orders in exchange for accelerated payments from retailers. Pearson said the discounts, which averaged 5 per cent, were violated company policy and had the net effect of boosting the retailers' cash flow at Pearson's expense.

News of the scandal knocked 73½p off Pearson's share price, to 690p, at one point. The shares later recovered some of the loss to close 14p lower at 749½p.

Pearson declined to identify the woman, who was dismissed this month. The company, with the help of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, its New York legal counsel, and Price Waterhouse, its accounting firm, is investigating the matter. Arthur Andersen, Penguin's former accountant, and the woman's colleagues and bosses are thought to be part of the investigation.

Pearson would not rule out fraud, but said that the inquiry so far has uncovered no evidence that the woman offered the discounts for personal gain. John Makinson, finance director, said: "At this stage... we cannot be sure what the motivation was."

The inquiry is expected to take several months. Michael Lynton, the chief executive of Penguin who replaced Peter Mayer last summer, said: "They have five years of paperwork. This is an enormous task." Mr Mayer joined Penguin as chief executive in 1978. He ran the worldwide group from London for ten years, before moving to the New York office.



Peter Mayer became Penguin chief executive in 1978



Marjorie Scardino has accounted for inquiry costs

The £100 million will be taken as a charge against Pearson's 1996 accounts and will not affect the profit expectations for 1997. The figure is equivalent to three times the worldwide operating profits of Penguin last year.

Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive, said the "lion's share" of the amount will cover the value of the discounts. The rest will cover the costs of the investigation and the rebates that may

be demanded by any book retailer that was not offered discounts by the Penguin employee. The latter could lead to expensive litigation if the retailers claim more than the company believes they are owed.

The improper accounting was uncovered in January, when Mr Lynton was merging Penguin and Putnam Berkley, the American publisher bought by Pearson for £200 million in December. He found problems in the credit

department and called in Price Waterhouse to investigate.

The woman offered discounts in exchange for payments in 60 days instead of the usual 90 days. The discounts were then "smoothed" in mountains of accounts-receivable paperwork and were never disclosed as bad debts. An official said the employee created "an accounting web of breathtaking complexity."

The woman received part of her pay as bonus, but Pearson

said that accelerated payments from retailers would have in no way affected her remuneration package.

The scandal emerged one day after Michael Price, the activist American investor, said that he had taken a 1 per cent stake in Pearson. Events in America have reinforced the City's belief that the group is accident-prone and vulnerable to takeover.

Pennington, page 29

De Savary to float new £100m venture

By JASON NISSE

PETER de SAVARY, the colourful entrepreneur who owned both Land's End and John O'Groats at one time, is planning to float his new venture, The Carnegie Club, with a market value of £100 million.

"We plan to float in the next 18 months, either in New York or London," Mr de Savary said yesterday.

The flotation of Carnegie would represent a return to the public arena by Mr de Savary, who lost a large part of his fortune in the early 1990s when his Placemore group collapsed, owing £50 million. He was also central to the abortive venture to redevelop Canvey Island in the Thames Estuary, which led to a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into Blue Arrow, his partner.

It will be the third time Mr de Savary, who is also hoping to stand as a Referendum Party candidate, has run a public company. The first, Land Leisure, was bought by Leisure Investments in the late 1980s, a deal that forced Leisure Investments into receivership. The second, Highland Participants, was taken private by Mr de Savary eight years ago.

The Carnegie Club currently has three operations — Skibo Castle in Scotland, Stapleford Park in Leicestershire and the London Outpost in Mayfair. Mr de Savary said that he was in discussions to open three more country houses — in Tuscany, Ireland and the East Coast of the US — and two new outposts, in Paris and New York.

By the time the company floats it should have a turnover of as much as £40 million, he said. However, he expects the business to be worth at least twice that.

Mr de Savary is also involved in the shipping business, owning the dry dock at Penance Dry Dock and Shipping Company.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100 4327.1 (+22.8)
Yield 3.61%
FTSE All share 2107.21 (+9.52)
Nikkei 10882.06 (+78.10)
New York Dow Jones 8862.50 (+22.57)
S&P Composite 382.54 (+1.77)

US TREASURY

Federal Funds 5.75% (4.75%)
Long Bond 6.87% (6.71%)
BSP Composite 5.85% (5.71%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank 6.75% (6.75%)
Life long gilt 119.4 (119.4)

STERLING

New York 1.6237 (1.6213)
London 1.6221 (1.6235)
DM 2.7387 (2.7495)
FF 1.4277 (1.4285)
Yen 194.57 (194.25)
£ index 97.4 (96.2)

DOLLAR

London 1.6221 (1.6235)
DM 2.7387 (2.7495)
FF 1.4277 (1.4285)
Yen 194.57 (194.25)
£ index 97.4 (96.2)

TOKYO

Tokyo close Yen 194.13
London 1.6221 (1.6235)
DM 2.7387 (2.7495)
FF 1.4277 (1.4285)
Yen 194.57 (194.25)
£ index 97.4 (96.2)

BEST 15-day (Apr)

Best 15-day (Apr) 100.25 (91.80)

LONDON

London close \$341.86 (\$41.06)
* denotes midday trading price

Going well

Shell, the oil company, announced record profits up 30 per cent to £5.7 billion for last year and the name of its new chairman in Britain. The final dividend rises 10 per cent. The group is cautious on the oil price, however.
Page 29, Times 30

Going badly

Philips, the Dutch electronics group, suffered a £200 million profit fall to £900 million. The company also played down speculation about splitting up saying that its original plans remained on course.
Page 32, Times 30

Tax change threatens jobs and investment

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of jobs and hundreds of millions of pounds of investment in major projects are at risk from new legislation before Parliament.

Projects which in the recent past have relied on lease finance money — now under threat from the Finance Bill — include the UK plants of Nissan and Toyota, the Japanese car manufacturers, the Trafford Centre development in Manchester and the modernisation of London Underground's Northern Line.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, acting on advice from the Inland Revenue, introduced a retrospective measure in November's Budget to block generous tax breaks available to investors using the lease finance mechanism.

The Revenue, which alleges that certain lease finance schemes amount to tax avoidance, calculates that some £3 billion is involved in the various

projects. The woman calculates that the Treasury could collect an extra £150 million a year if the loophole is blocked.

Martin Hall, director-general of the Finance and Leasing Association, said last night: "The retrospective nature of the Chancellor's action is scandalous. At issue is the fact that large investors who have put up billions to back British projects are being penalised retrospectively. Investors who take the risk to back substantial projects may now think twice."

Peel Holdings, the property development company involved in Manchester's Trafford Park development, has told the Treasury that the £200 million bill to finance the project, which will provide 6,000 permanent jobs when opened next year, could grow by at least "several million" if the proposed measure is kept in the Finance Bill.

SFA expels trader at Henry Ansbacher

By ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER senior trader at Henry Ansbacher & Co, the merchant bank, has been banned from working in the City for the "grossly improper" transfer of £70,000 to his associate's account in Zimbabwe.

The Securities and Futures Authority, the watchdog for brokers and futures traders, announced yesterday that David Crook, who joined Henry Ansbacher in April 1994 as a senior dealer in trade and market South African gilts and gold shares, had been expelled and ordered to pay £8,500 costs. The bank was reprimanded, fined £20,000 for "supervisory and procedural failings" and told to pay costs of £5,400.

The SFA said that in August 1994 Mr Crook, who was subsequently dismissed for gross misconduct, "caused the firm to make a payment of £70,000 by falsely representing that these were margin funds for a new proprietary trad-

ing account opened by Henry Ansbacher & Co with another firm. In fact no such trading account existed, and the payment was really an unauthorised transfer of funds to an associate of Mr Crook in Zimbabwe." The SFA, which was not told of the unauthorised transaction until June 1995, said Mr Crook had repaid the money.

During the investigation, Mr Crook was asked for details of his bank accounts. The SFA said: "Mr Crook subsequently provided false, misleading and substantially inaccurate particulars relating to the existence of bank accounts held by him in the UK."

Mr Crook took his case to a disciplinary tribunal. It found that he had "consistently and repeatedly lied or resorted to half-truths" during interviews with the SFA about his bank accounts.

City Diary, page 31

Chubb expected to reveal agreed takeover

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHUBB SECURITY is expected today to unveil an agreed takeover bid that will value the company at up to £1.25 billion. Williams Holdings, the diversified industrial group, was last night regarded as the most likely candidate to take control of the lock-making company.

Chubb issued a statement yesterday confirming that it was in bid talks that could lead to an offer of up to 450p a share. The move came after Chubb shares began to climb on rumours that it was about to become a bid target. Shares in the company jumped more than 20 per cent yesterday closing at 420p, compared with a low this year of 310p, and valuing the company at £1.2 billion.

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, holds shares valued at £7 million at yesterday's closing price. David Pencock, chief executive, could receive a total pay-off package

of more than £2 million. He holds share options valued at £1.6 million at yesterday's closing price, while he was paid £400,000 last year. He also holds shares worth £428,000.

The expected bid comes five years after Williams lost a £760 million takeover battle for control of the Rascal group — a move that hastened the demerger of Chubb from the company. Rascal and Chubb, which are both chaired by Sir Ernest, yesterday had a combined market capitalisation of nearly £2 billion.

Analysts said that Williams, which owns the Yale lock business, would be likely to face a monopolies inquiry if it took control of Chubb but the two businesses had obvious synergies. Other potential bidders named yesterday included Tycos International, the US industrial company that bought Thorn Security

for £138 million last summer and was busy in the US market yesterday selling nearly \$500 million of stock to help pay off debt. But Ingersoll-Rand, the US industrial company, was ruled out by analysts as it is still completing a £230 million agreed bid for Newnan Tonks.

Chubb shares performed strongly after demerger, quickly rising from an opening quote of 20p. But the company's performance has slumped more recently and the shares slid nearly 20 per cent from their high of 300p last year. Chubb has insisted that it can restore growth through acquisitions although the market has been concerned by the dilutive impact of recent purchases. At the half year Chubb revealed only a small rise in profits to £46 million and said that acquisitions would knock around £3 million off profits this year.
Times 30



Sir Ernest Harrison, left, and David Pencock

Are your Valentines
all cards, or is there
someone special?

A Valentine card is the perfect flirtation: amorously suggestive, teasingly anonymous, thankfully ephemeral. But what if you want to make a more lasting impression? To convey what you think of their taste and discernment? A bottle of James Herrick's Chardonnay will flatter by reflecting what is most desirable: good looks, an endearing freshness and honesty, real depth of character coupled with the elegance and style of the South of France. Give your Valentine a card if you want to tease. Give them James Herrick if you're for real.



James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM ASDA, REEKLEY WINE, O'CONNORS OF LEMPA, THE CIVIC BARBERS, L.H. BATH, ELDRIDGE POPE, BURTON, FULLER'S HALL, BATSON, MORRISON'S, O'BRIEN, RUSSELL CELLARS, SAINSBURY, SOWERBY, SVA, TESCO, THOS. HEATING, UNWIN'S, VICTORIA WINE, WATROSE, WINE CELLAR.

French deficit no bar to EMU says OECD

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

FRANCE should have no difficulty in cutting its budget deficit this year to the level needed to qualify for membership of the European single currency, according to a notably upbeat report from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

It said the spending freeze already announced for 1997, together with a large one-off payment from France Telecom, should ensure that the deficit falls from 4 per cent of gross

domestic product in 1996 to the Maastricht upper limit of 3 per cent in 1997. The OECD said that, even if there is some slippage in reducing the deficit, which it envisages, "there should be room to take the measures needed to bring it back on track".

It said that, in the absence of additional measures, further progress in fiscal consolidation would be slow and the overall deficit could remain close to 3 per cent in 1998. But France's government debt to GDP ratio is, in any case, likely to remain below the 60 per cent Maastricht ceiling, it said. The OECD was also

markedly more optimistic than many economic commentators on France's growth prospects, saying that a sharp easing in monetary policy coupled with an improving climate in foreign export markets, sets the stage for a stronger growth performance over the next two years. It predicts that growth may accelerate to 2.5 per cent in 1997 and 1998.

Unemployment, however, is expected to remain a significant problem, falling only to around 12 per cent of the labour force by the end of 1998 from around 12.5 per cent currently. The OECD said that France may have a structural

unemployment rate of around 10 per cent and that, without substantial measures to deregulate the labour market, it is likely to remain high.

The OECD also called for liberalisation of sheltered sections of the French economy to enhance the dynamism of the economy. It said that, despite the European single market project, progress in raising competitive pressures in many sectors had been very uneven.

Pennington, page 29

Regulator in fresh TransCo attack

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TRANSCO, British Gas's pipeline business, came under renewed fire from the industry regulator yesterday as she unveiled detailed plans to strip down the business and publish commercial information - the company wants kept secret.

Clare Spottiswoode may chop the pipeline network into separate parts to allow in new players. She said: "In the very long term we could have alternative methods of getting gas around the country."

The fresh revelations come at a highly sensitive time for British Gas - the company splits into two on Monday - and investors will be concerned about prospects for TransCo, already in an MMC inquiry over a pricing dispute with the regulator.

More bad news is in store for TransCo with the regulator's intention to publish commercial information supplied by the business. Ms Spottiswoode will in the next few months put more information in the public domain without the company's approval.

She said regulation would be better executed with more information in the public arena, and that decisions on whether it was commercially confidential would be taken by the regulator rather than British Gas.

Ms Spottiswoode made the attacks as she published her annual report. It revealed that complaints about British Gas were up 174 per cent last year.



John Morgan, chief executive of Morgan Sindall, the construction company, and Barbara Moorhouse, finance director, after unveiling profits 71 per cent up, at £3.17 million. The firm is turning its focus from office refurbishment towards building contracting to maintain growth rates. A 2.85p final dividend makes 4.2p (2.7p). Tempus, page 30

C&G mortgage lending almost double at £6.7bn

By ROBERT MILLER AND GAVIN LUMSDEN

CHELTEMHAM & Gloucester, the retail mortgage arm of Lloyds TSB, yesterday reported a 30 per cent jump in gross profits, to £336 million, and revealed that it could be selling branded home loans through some 3,000 high street branches by the end of the year.

C&G, which also reported a 92 per cent rise in gross mortgage lending to £6.7 billion, has been selling its home loans through some 2,000 branches since it joined the Lloyds Bank group in August 1995.

Now that Lloyds has taken over the TSB group, plans are in hand for C&G to sell

mortgages through TSB's 1,000 or so branches. Andrew Longhurst, chairman-designate of C&G, whose parent company Lloyds TSB is expected to unveil annual profits today in the region of £2.5 billion, said: "It is a major project for us and one that we hope will be completed by the end of the year. When it happens we will be the third-largest mortgage provider behind the Halifax and the Abbey National."

C&G has a 15 per cent share of the net mortgage lending market and mortgage assets rose by 10.7 per cent last year, to £28.4 billion. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts fell to

£11.2 million, from £43.7 previously. The important cost-to-income ratio rose to 33 per cent, from 32 per cent last year, on the back of higher marketing costs and an ongoing investment in staff and training.

Meanwhile, Britannia Building Society yesterday said that it would pay £35 million in loyalty bonuses to one million members, making it the first mutual to share out annual profits.

The payment, which excludes around 300,000 "carpetbaggers", gives an average taxable sum of £35, with a maximum set at £500, and will be paid later this month. It

is calculated on the amount of 22p units that members have accumulated by borrowing and saving with the society.

Calum MacLeod, chairman, said that the bonus was equivalent to the dividend that shareholders could expect from demutualised building societies in the future.

The payment and associated costs reduced operating profits to £72.8 million, down from £118.8 million in 1995. Trevor Bayley, the finance director, said that Britannia had incurred £45 million of costs in offering discounted first-time mortgages last year. At one point it had a 30 per cent market share.

Insurance watchdog may boost powers

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PEOPLE claiming compensation from insurance companies could soon be automatically entitled to up to £100,000 payouts, plus unlimited sums for distress and inconvenience.

Insurance companies are backing plans to double compensation from £50,000 to £100,000 and to scrap the £750 cap on distress payments.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has asked insurance trade bodies, consumer groups, insurance companies and regulatory authorities for their opinions by close of business today.

The proposals have the support of the Association of British Insurers, the trade body representing almost 440 insurance companies, and Standard Life, the UK's largest mutual life insurer.

At present the ombudsman can award up to £50,000 and, if necessary, make recommendations for compensation to exceed this. Under the new proposals, this limit would be doubled to £100,000, into line with the powers of the banking ombudsman.

After today's deadline the responses will be scrutinised by the PIA and discussed at the next monthly meeting of the Council of the PIA Ombudsman Bureau, which will then issue guidelines.

Standard Life, one of the largest UK insurers, believes that it is distress is genuine "it is difficult to see why it should be capped". Tom King, a director of the mutual, said: "We would be happy to see the maximum compensation payments doubled to £100,000, which would bring the insurance ombudsman's powers into line with the banking ombudsman's powers."

Rover feels pinch of the rising pound

ROVER is the latest company to send out distress signals over the rise in sterling. Walter Hasselkus, its chief executive, said yesterday that if the pound stayed strong, Rover might try to minimise negative effects by buying more parts abroad.

Rover is especially affected by the strong pound because of its links with BMW, its parent company. Mr Hasselkus said that sterling exchange rates of DM2.70 to DM2.80 "would be a problem for Rover and British industry".

The mark's recent decline against most currencies, including sterling and the dollar, has helped German exporters, but made foreign goods costlier for Germans, who are increasingly buying Rover cars. However, Mr Hasselkus gave warning against too much gloom. He expects sterling to fall back again, and, until 1998, Rover's currency risk is hedged out with the help of complex financial instruments. UK exporters have been facing an increasingly tough business climate since sterling began to rise again after its 1992 fall.

Stena to shed 330 jobs

STENA LINE has given unions formal notification of 330 compulsory redundancies at the ports of Dover and Newhaven in advance of the proposed merger of its UK ferry operations with P&O European Ferries. It was reported yesterday. The merger has yet to be approved by UK, French and EU competition authorities. It is thought that up to 1,000 jobs across the two ferry companies will eventually go, and the current round of redundancies is only the first tranche. Stena's crew are expected to bear the brunt of the cuts.

Fed backs banking move

ALAN GREENSPAN, US Federal Reserve Chairman, said the Fed supports moves to allow non-banking institutions to offer banking services. The head of the US central bank told the House of Representatives banking sub-committee: "The boundaries between finance and non-finance are likely to become increasingly indistinct." He said computer and software businesses were developing sophisticated products that blurred the distinction. But he called on Congress to move with caution in lowering the legal barriers between commerce and banking.

ScotRail strike threat

RAIL workers involved in a long-running dispute are to stage fresh strikes. Around 700 train crew members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union employed by ScotRail will walk out on February 22 and 24 and on March 8 and 10, threatening disruption to services. The dispute began last year over productivity payments but was fuelled when the company disciplined some union members involved in industrial action. Around 800 non-train crew members of the RMT have voted not to take industrial action.

Siemens optimistic

SIEMENS, the German electronics giant, said that weak semiconductor prices at the end of 1996 caused net income in the first quarter of its fiscal year to fall, but it still sees stable full-year profits. Net income in the final three months of 1996, the first quarter of Siemens' business year, fell 5 per cent, to DM478 million, despite strong growth in orders during the same period. Favourable foreign exchange markets and low German interest rates boosted orders and sales in the first quarter.

AA rejects pilots' offer

AMERICAN Airlines, the US's second-largest carrier and the proposed partner of British Airways in a new global alliance, yesterday dismissed the latest offer from its pilots aimed at averting a strike. Robert Crandall, its chairman, called for binding arbitration. A key issue in the bitter dispute is whether AA can fly the small jets of its regional carrier, American Eagle, with lower-paid pilots belonging to another union, a move opposed by the Allied Pilots Association.

Analysts back Clyde

ANALYSTS at BZW Research and SBC Warburg, the leading securities houses, yesterday advised Clyde Petroleum shareholders to reject the £494 million takeover bid from Gulf Canada Resources. The 120p-a-share offer closes on Tuesday. Both firms backed Clyde because of the strength of its management, its acquisitions record and strong cash generation. Gulf Canada, which owns 29.7 per cent of its target, argues that falling oil prices threaten Clyde's prospects.

BBA buys US air bases

BBA GROUP, the airport management business, has purchased the operations of three service bases in America for \$18.5 million through its subsidiary Signature Flight Support Corporation. The bases are at Teterboro Airport, New Jersey; White Plains, New York; and West Palm Beach, Florida. The company said last year's sales for the three bases was \$29.3 million. The group now has 41 fixed base operations, including a new Swiss joint venture.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.81	2.05
Austria Sch	13.17	14.67
Belgium Fr	66.15	64.89
Canada \$	8.11	2.151
Denmark Dkr	0.167	0.758
France Fr	10.98	10.16
Germany DM	6.81	6.98
Greece Dr	2.89	2.97
Hong Kong \$	10.22	12.23
Ireland P	1.20	1.00
Italy Lira	1.00	1.00
Japan Yen	5.72	5.07
Netherlands Gld	215.00	199.80
Norway Kr	0.854	0.901
Portugal Esc	2.00	2.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	166.00
Sweden Kr	7.73	6.93
Switzerland Fr	345.00	225.00
Turkey Lira	12.96	12.96
USA \$	804.00	100.00
USA \$	1.724	1.584

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

MacLaurin resigns from NatWest

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LORD MACLAURIN, chairman of NatWest, resigned from the board of NatWest yesterday after Tesco confirmed that it is ending its nine-month-old agreement with the bank so that it can join forces with Royal Bank of Scotland.

David Reid, Tesco's deputy chairman, also had to resign from the board of Legal & General because of the supermarket group's move into financial services.

NatWest has been operating Tesco's Clubcard Plus debit

card. Tesco and RBS will relaunch Clubcard Plus and follow it up with a credit card in the summer. Ownership of the joint venture will be "broadly equal", Tesco said. The partners will invest up to £20 million each in the first year.

Other products, including life insurance and general insurance, offered in conjunction with Scottish Widows and RBS's Direct Line, will follow. Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, said the venture would be a "truly major force in financial services in the UK".

Coutts to be part of new NatWest wealth division

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST is to create a "wealth management" arm with more than £60 billion under management. The division will incorporate high-profile brand names from within the group, such as Coutts and Gartmore.

Derek Wantless, chief executive of the high street clearer, dismissed the suggestion that NatWest Wealth Management, which will embrace NatWest Life and NatWest Ventures, would be for rich customers only. He said: "This

new venture is as applicable to our customers with just a few hundred pounds invested in unit trusts as to the wealthiest pension fund client with billions under management."

The division will be headed by Paul Myners, chairman of Gartmore, the pension fund manager NatWest bought last year. Mr Myners will join the board of Coutts. He said: "We want to make it accessible to everyone who is planning for their future, whether it is retirement planning, long-

term healthcare, pensions or general investment."

Coutts, which has a reputation as the most posh of private banks, has been in the headlines over its handling of the reported decision to waive bank charges worth £500,000 on the Duchess of York's overdraft. This week Coutts halted bankruptcy proceedings against a mother of three on income support, over debts incurred by her husband from whom she is now separated. City diary, page 31



The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, p.l.c. Final Dividend 1996

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on 18th April, 1997 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1996 of 22.5p per 25p Ordinary share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 14th May, 1997 the dividend will be paid on 21st May, 1997.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3 p.m. on 18th April, 1997.

Share Warrants to Bearer

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 197 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank Registrar's Department, Issues Section, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholm House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 18th April, 1997 to receive payment on 21st May, 1997) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Freres et Cie, 121 Boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

Proposed Capitalisation Issue

Notice is also given that, subject to the necessary resolution being passed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company to be held on Wednesday, 14th May, 1997, there will be a capitalisation issue of Ordinary shares. If the recommendation is approved, two new Ordinary shares will be issued in respect of each Ordinary share held by shareholders on the Register at close of business on 27th June, 1997. The additional shares will carry the same rights as existing Ordinary shares but will not qualify for any dividends declared or paid before the conclusion of the AGM.

Further details and Notice of the AGM will be issued on or about 11th April, 1997.

Share Warrants to Bearer

The Coupon to be presented will be No. 198 and full instructions to the holders of Share Warrants to Bearer will be published in "The Times" on Monday, 19th May, 1997.

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
13th February, 1997

By Order of the Board
Miss J.E. Munsiff
Secretary

Co-op chief discounts plan to sell non-food business

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GRAHAM MELMOTH, chief executive of Co-operative Wholesale Services, said yesterday that he has no intention of selling chunks of the non-food business to Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur.

Shares in Llanica Trust, Mr Regan's investment vehicle, were suspended on Monday when it confirmed reports that it was involved in plans to buy parts of the CWS and the smaller Co-operative Retail Society's non-food business.

Mr Melmoth said yesterday that the CWS and CRS were in full agreement on the Llanica Trust approach and he would be happy to talk to Mr Regan, who is understood to be on



Melmoth: not selling

holiday, but he does not envisage doing business. He added that he has not replied to the letter sent to CWS and CRS on Monday from Galileo.

the separate investment vehicle set up by Llanica to raise up to £500 million.

One or two other companies have inquired this week whether CWS would be willing to sell parts of the business but they have been told nothing is for sale, he said.

Mr Melmoth said that the CWS's huge funeral business, which carried out around 55,000 funerals last year, "would be one of the last businesses we'd sell". As the UK's largest commercial funeral home, he has no intention of selling that business either.

The only non-core businesses are a small engineering operation and a small chain of garages, he said, but they "are not up for sale".

Directors cut Tube projects

DOZENS of investment projects on the London Underground were yesterday dropped by the London Transport board, a decision taken because of the £400 million cut in state subsidy announced in the Budget (Jonathan Prym writes).

Details of the scrapped schemes will be revealed by

Peter Ford, the chairman, and Denis Tunnicliffe, chief executive, when they appear before the Commons Transport Select Committee next week.

LT would not comment on results of a board meeting yesterday, but casualties are thought to include the £100 million modernisation of the Northern Line, a £100 million refurbish-

ment of District Line trains and a £5 million modernisation of Oxford Street station.

However, money has been found to complete work on the East London Line, shut for almost two years, the longest peace-time closure of a Tube line this century. London business groups and Labour condemned the planned cuts.

□ Inching towards facts on windfall tax □ Pearson's little accounting problem □ OECD's rosy view of France

Brown's hidden hit list

WE are inching closer to some idea of what constitutes Labour's windfall levy — but it is painfully slow progress. The onus for companies themselves, and for investors, are looking better.

First, the amount. Gordon Brown has limited Labour to a sum of £3 billion lifted from the privatised utilities. This is not a binding promise, and there is no guarantee that he as Chancellor, or a successor, will not come back for more if the companies survive the experience.

We still do not know how the tax is to be assessed among each, but a £3 billion figure based on turnover of their regulated businesses would not, as this column has pointed out, break the bank for anyone.

We also do not know which companies will attract tax. However, remarks by Mr Brown on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme take us a little nearer — on the twin provisos that he will be bound by his word and that he knows what he is talking about.

"An ordinary company working within the marketplace that is not regulated on grounds of price does not come within this [tax]," he said. Mr Brown was pressed on whether British Telecom or British Airways would be levied, but would not say. On this definition, BT is hit and BA escapes entirely. The three power generators, which are not

regulated, escape likewise. Let us draw a discreet veil over the awful possibility that our would-be Chancellor believes that BA and the generators do have their prices set by some regulator — Ofwat for BA, perhaps? He then backtracked, setting three criteria for the tax. They were, first, the extent of the monopoly position enjoyed. BA competes with 200 other airlines in this country alone, and the generators are in a market made up of 20 separate businesses, so no monopoly. BT has about an 85 per cent market share, so some tax levied there.

Second, Mr Brown repeated the point about regulated prices. His third basis for setting a tax was more weasel-worded: the value of the assets at point of sale, that is, at privatisation.

All three of our borderline cases, unlike poor British Gas, have outperformed the market. But this does not automatically mean that they were sold too cheaply, only that they have performed better in the hands of private shareholders than under State ownership.

It is utterly antithetical to the

principles of enlightened capitalism that New Labour claims to espouse to tax success *pro rata* in this way — those that outperformed being proportionately worse hit than the laggards. In the real world, of course, this is probably what will happen.

But with the election so near, and the amount Labour wants fixed in the public mind, there is no reason now why Mr Brown cannot identify those companies he intends to tax, even if he does not attach an individual tax bill to each. Investors deserve no less. Remember investors, Mr Brown? A bit like stakeholders, only they have been around rather longer.

Cooking the books at Penguin

THIS is a truly weird state of affairs that the new Pearson management has discovered in the United States. It would fit well perhaps within one of those old Penguin crime novels with the green covers, except that there appears to be no motive — and perhaps no crime either.

Unofficial discounts of 3 to 4



per cent were negotiated with some bookstores by one individual low down in the Penguin US accounts department.

The cash was paid for the books, and the discounts then handed back to the retailers in return for prompt payment. In accounting terms the discounts were treated as if the money was still owed to Penguin.

Over three years, the discounts paid back reached the best part of the £100 million charge Pearson has taken. The rest will cover reimbursement of any shops not offered the original discount who feel they have been disadvantaged and sue — this is America, remember — plus lawyers' and accountants' fees. As the money is not really

owed to Penguin, it served to fatter Penguin's profits, which will have to be restated. As it does not represent cash owing, just cash never received, it will come off the balance sheet value, although any future reimbursements will have to be paid out of Pearson's cash.

It all begs two questions. Why did the individual, who does not seem to have benefited materially, do it? The scam would have had to be uncovered eventually, to the ruin of her career. And did any of the bookshops know that those discounts were unauthorised?

The matter came to light when some of the shops approached Putnam Berkley, the publisher just bought by Pearson, and asked whether the same discount applied to its books. It was not discovered by the new Pearson management, led by Marjorie Scardino, although they would have found out in the end.

The affair has no implications for any rumoured takeover of Pearson, and little for the share price, which settled down well yesterday after the initial shock. But it does prompt one thought.

Only at the Pearson of old could such an elaborate deception have been created without apparently bringing anyone any profit.

Reality deficit

ONE needs several EU surplus mountains of aid to get through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's views on the French economy. The OECD is notorious for giving countries an easy ride in such reports, that co-operation tending to be with the relevant finance ministry. The result is a snapshot of our neighbour unfamiliar to anyone who has been there recently.

The OECD is also notoriously in favour of European Monetary Union, and willing to bend the facts if this edges the great dream closer to reality. France will doubtless get to the 3 per cent limit in its budget deficit, as the report says — but no criticism of the way it gets there. Nothing about fudging or accounting wheezes, no doubts about the most notorious one — France

Telecom hands the Government a huge one-off payment and in return the state picks up all future pension liabilities.

None of this is news, but it seems to have escaped the OECD whose optimism on growth is, shall we say, not universally shared among economists. The real shock is the treatment of French unemployment, which merits just eight lines of the report's assessment and recommendations.

A structural unemployment rate of 10 per cent is described as "preoccupying". Not "appalling", not "worrying" in its implications for social cohesion and political extremism. One has to wonder how the OECD's rose-tinted spectacles would have viewed the Weimar Republic. "Artistically lively, but inflation remains a concern", perhaps?

Slow motion

MANY thanks to Deloitte Touche Tomatsu for its illuminating Top 200 list of the fastest growing companies in the world. Strategem, the doors, bridges and computers conglomerate, is Britain's second speediest group, and nineteenth in all, ahead 107 per cent over five years. Alas, the race is not always to the swift. Strategem's shares have collapsed from 180p to just 70p in the past year.

Shell unveils new chief and record profits

By MARTIN BARROW

ROYAL Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, yesterday set out senior management changes and pledged to drive down costs further as it unveiled record profits for 1996.

Announcing a 30 per cent rise in annual net income to £5.69 billion, fuelled by higher oil prices and increased output, the company said John Jennings would retire as chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, the British arm, in June. Mark Moody-Stuart, in June, Mark Moody-Stuart, its group managing director, is to succeed him. At Royal Dutch, Jeroen van der Veer has been appointed as a managing director.

The City warmly welcomed a 10.3 per cent increase in the final dividend and an improvement in return on capital to above 13 per cent from 11 per cent a year ago and 10.6 per cent in 1995. Shell is narrowing the gap with BP's return of 15 per cent, announced this week.

In London, Shell shares rose 27½p to a 12-month high of £10.59, helped by the company's proposed two-for-one scrip issue and the increased payout. The final dividend rises to 22.5p a share from 20.4p, taking the total to 63.6p from 47.8p.

Shell said earnings from oil and gas, boosted by higher oil prices and increased production, easily outweighed a substantial fall in profits from its

chemicals business in 1996. Net income rose 87 per cent to £1.44 billion in the fourth quarter. On a current cost basis profits rose 23 per cent to £5.3 billion in 1996 and more than doubled to £12.9 billion in the final quarter.

Exploration and production earnings rose £1.4 billion to £8.25 billion over the year, reflecting higher output of oil and gas and stronger prices. Oil trading at an average \$18.60 a barrel in the first quarter, reached £23.60 in the final one. Refining and marketing also advanced, to £2 billion from £1.5 billion, largely because of inventory gains outside America. But the effect of volume growth was limited by pressure on marketing margins. Earnings from chemicals fell to £762 million from £1.09 billion. Industry margins are expected to remain weak in 1997, the company said.

Shell expects weaker oil prices this year, as non-Opec output rises. Refining margins may also be eroded in the seasonal downturn in demand. Mr Jennings said group capital expenditure was likely to reach \$14 billion by 2001. Most of it will fund exploration and production expansion. It was \$12.5 billion last year.

Tempus, page 30

Noble quits British Biotech post

By ERIC REGULY

JAMES NOBLE, the man who was instrumental in turning British Biotech into the leading biopharmaceuticals company, resigned as finance director yesterday and is expected to take another job in the industry.

His departure came as little surprise. Keith McCullagh, chief executive of British Biotech, said that Mr Noble's primary interest was raising money to fund the research and development operations, an effort that had been largely completed. "James raised £300 million in capital for us. It is fair to say that he didn't relish the idea of spending the next five years putting in all the nuts and bolts to turn us into a commercial company."

Mr Noble could not be reached for comment. He has been approached by other pharmaceutical companies but has not accepted a job. Colleagues at British Biotech said that he is building a new house in Oxford.

British Biotech is conducting an outside search for a new finance director with expertise in ongoing commercial operations instead of financing. For now, Mr Noble's job will be done by Dr McCullagh and shared by Dr Weir, who was appointed financial director of British Biotech's pharmaceutical subsidiary yesterday.

Toad made inventor redundant

By FRASER NELSON

THE Cambridge graduate whose inventions led to the creation of Toad, the car security company, was made redundant three days before the sudden departure of Charles Parker, its newly appointed chief executive.

Edward Snow, 26, whose dashboard spy camera was the first of Toad's car security products, sold a significant part of his holding in the company just days before Mr Parker's resignation sent its shares plunging by 40 per cent.

Chris Evans, the biotech entrepreneur who took Toad to market, played down the departure. He said that although Mr Snow had been a key figure in the early days, his position — head of new product research — had diminished as the company evolved. He said: "When Toad only employed six people, he was very important. But the company now employs over 100, and he had naturally become more of a middle manager."

Mr Evans said that Mr Snow had sold the shares to fund an MBA course in France. Mr Snow is understood to have arranged the disposal, which raised around £25,000, three weeks before Mr Parker's resignation.

Toad now makes most of its money from Secur-Fix film for car windows.

Ernst & Young re-invents the audit.

FINANCIAL TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 23 1997

ACCOUNTANCY

Jim Kelly investigates work towards offering more than the no-frills 'plain vanilla' audit

A modern crusade

THE word audit derives from the Latin to hear. A medieval lord would entrust his estate to a steward. An auditor would subsequently give his lordship a regular, verbal account of the state of the business and the performance of the steward. One expects the auditor would not have got away with the modern language of today's written audit opinions.

Ernst & Young, the Big Six accountancy firm, has just spent up to £350m worldwide trying to restore something of this medieval service to its clients. It is, in effect, offering to audit the estates of its clients — not just a checklist of published facts.

"We want to audit the business — not just the financials," says Nick Land, the firm's UK senior partner. Most of the Big Six firms are trying to reinvent, or at least modernise, the audit. KPMG, for example, is close to unveiling its reinvented audit.

E&Y's candidates — Audit Innovation or AI — seeks to expand the restricted and cautious financial assurance provided by the modern statutory audit which has changed little in decades — with a much wider assurance on business risks and a stream of ideas on how to improve commercial performance.

There is no doubt audit

needs reinventing. To many companies it seems an irrelevant, required by statute, but unwanted by law. This is partly because directors, in effect, appoint and pay the auditor. It is hardly surprising that directors see little value in a product designed to monitor their performance and integrity. If they are honest they will see it as a waste of money. If they are dishonest they will not want to pay for a good one.

Against this background it is hardly surprising that few for audits have come under tremendous downward pressure. Competitive tendering has become a mechanism for paying less. However, firms have little choice but to continue to compete for the business because of the unique platform it provides for the selling of other, more lucrative, services to audit clients. The work has one other important advantage. It teaches accountants how businesses really work — giving them a priceless glimpse into the heart of a working company.

The problem has been that while the audit team may leave the premises with a unique insight into a client's business, the clients do not always get to share it. Nor are the audit team motivated to use the information they

have gathered and checked to analyse the client's business. Nor are the non-financial risks which the business faces exposed. The no-frills 'plain vanilla' audit merely satisfies the government's requirements.

The result is that directors have long peered at audits for some evidence of value they can add to the business from the audit process — sometimes in order to justify paying for it at all. This pressure has been immensely increased by a perception that audits do not work. The sting of audit failure of the late 1980s and early 1990s, and the resulting investigation by Sir Adrian Cadbury

The work teaches accountants how businesses really work — giving them a priceless glimpse into the heart of a working company.

into corporate governance, has tried to close this "expectation gap". Directors, and especially non-executive directors, now have good reason to seek a wide assurance and objective analysis of the businesses they help run. The increasing tendency for directors to end up in court when companies fail has also concerned shareholders. Shareholders also want assurance on a widening range of issues — from internal controls to environmental performance.

E&Y believes AI is the answer. It had better be the firm has invested \$500m worldwide — and up to a further £200m in staff time — into rolling it out. Land thinks it is the right thing for the firm worldwide — but "manna from heaven" for the UK firm in particular. This is for two main reasons. First, he is trying to place E&Y at the "value-added" end of the accountancy services spectrum. Second, it dovetails with reforms he has made to the way E&Y's staff work — reforms made easier by the messy trauma of the firm's birth — from the merger of Arthur Young and Ernst & Whinney in 1993. "I think the merger was a bit of a catalyst," admits Land.

The way people are affected by AI is central to

value billing" for AI — linking the accountant results to parts of the fee.

AI is now beyond the drawing board. The key principles will underpin the audits performed by E&Y for 600 clients reporting in late 1998 and early 1999. Almost all the firm's 2,200 audit staff have now been trained. John McMillan, an E&Y partner who has actually been running AI, says it has both motivated audit teams and impressed customers. "There will be only one methodology," he says. "Although we can deliver 'plain vanilla' if the client wishes."

It is a measure of how far auditing may have lost its way that this much money and time needs to be invested in reinventing a relevant one. While E&Y's software and methodology will be easy to replicate — the change in the way people work will be much harder to copy. AI certainly sounds like a good idea, but there will have to be strict rules to make sure auditors are candid about the business solutions they have themselves suggested in other words assurance must outweigh advice.

The rest of the Big Six will in any case have their own projects. Clients can only hope that one of them gets it right soon. The price will be an audit for which clients will actively seek to pay an audit which they will listen to, as well as hear.

The Financial Times tells the story so far and already many of our clients are seeing what Audit Innovation can deliver.

ERNST & YOUNG

Ernst & Young, Becket House, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Telephone: 0171 931 5306/08 or e-mail: ssmclair@cc.ernst.co.uk

The United Kingdom firm of Ernst & Young is a member of Ernst & Young International and is authorised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Smith & Nephew revives on renewed takeover talk

HAVING traded just a shade above their low for some time, shares of Smith & Nephew bounced back yesterday, reviving suggestions that a bidder may be stalking the shares.

The Elastoplast to Nivea healthcare group finished the session 9p better at 188p in heavy turnover that saw almost nine million shares change hands. Talk by City speculators in the past has linked the group with Johnson & Johnson in the US. The nappies supplier might be one of the few companies with the financial resources to be able to afford S&N's £2 billion-plus price tag.

Big things are expected of S&N, with the group launching Dermagraft, its biological-engineered skin replacement treatment, later this year. Brokers say it should be a real money spinner.

Share prices generally took their lead from another record-breaking run by the Dow Jones industrial average overnight on Wall Street. It managed to offset news of the latest rise in inflation, while another positive start in New York last night provided further impetus. The FT-SE 100 index closed just a shade below its best with a rise of 22.8 at a new closing high of 4,327.1. A total of 937 million shares were traded.

The City gave a warm response to full-year figures from Shell with profits surging 60 per cent in the final quarter. The group showed it had made strides in controlling costs, but warned of a softening in the strong oil price once deliveries from Iraq are resumed. The shares jumped 30p to £10.91, excited by news of a two-for-one scrip issue. BP, which reported earlier this week, finished 6p lighter at 694p.

Racal Electronics finished 13p higher at 276p with the speculators taking the view that if Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, is prepared to accept bids for Chubb, he may be willing to do so for Racal. The Racal price was also supported by a brokers' recommendation after a visit to the company.

Chubb Security, the locksmith demerged from Racal Electronics a few years back, surged 79p to 420p on news of a bid approach. Chubb said the talks revolved around terms for an agreed bid of up to 450p a share. Potential



Copyright Promotions, up 10p, has a deal with Playmates, the people who brought you Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

predators were said to include Williams Holdings, 31p firmer at 338p, and Rentokil Initial, 1p off at 488p. Rentokil later denied any involvement. Bids from as far afield as Sweden and Australia are anticipated. Another candidate is said to be Ingenio Rand, the US industrialist.

Royal Bank of Scotland

The bears are keeping their positions open in Reuters, the financial news service, after a warning from the company about future earnings growth. The price finished another 4p cheaper at 646p amid fears it may have further to fall. There is even talk it may use its cash mountain on a major acquisition.

rose 9p to 629p after announcing its link-up with Tesco, 6p better at 344p, to develop its own retail banking service in its stores.

Lloyds TSB, which kicks off the banks' dividend reporting season later today, firmed 3p to 502p. Barclays, reporting next week, was 19p dearer at £11.97.

Reckitt & Coleman jumped

22p to 757p in a thin market as several protected trades went through. These included 700,000 shares at 745p, 533,582 at 732p and 500,000 at 751p. It boosted total turnover in the shares to 3.6 million.

Pearson dropped 14p to 702p, after briefly touching 709p, on the news it was taking a £100 million charge

after the discovery of improper accounting at its Penguin Publishing subsidiary in New York. The media group, which also owns the Financial Times, Lazard Brothers merchant bank and Madame Tussauds, has been talked off as a possible bid target.

The strong pound continued to take its toll of Britain's exporters. This time there

was losses for chemical companies like BIP, 12p down at 251p, Corda International, 19p off at 319p and Laporte, 11p down at 661p. The chemical industry has been depressed worldwide and a strong pound makes them even less competitive.

British Steel was unmoved at 140p on news of the hefty losses at Avesta Sheffield where it is a majority shareholder.

British Biotechnology fell 9p to 239p on learning of the departure of James Noble, finance director. The company is now looking for a successor.

Elsewhere among the biotech companies Cortes International showed no signs of slowing with a rise of a further 7p to 238p. Shield Diagnostics continued to build on its recent gains with a leap of 45p to 370p as brokers again reflected on the potential for its new treatment to diagnose heart attacks earlier.

Wallis Corroon received a lukewarm reception to full-year figures showing a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £99.1 million with the price falling 6p to 133p. The insurance broker remained cautious about current trading.

Copyright Promotions stood out with a rise of 10p at 91p after clinching a major deal with Playmates Toys to market the Mr Men toy brand in the US. Playmates was also responsible for the Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtles theme which was all the rage with children a few years back.

GLF-EDGED: The latest inflation numbers did not sit well with bond market and prices gave up ground, underperforming other European bond markets. The rise to 3.1 per cent in underlying inflation during January left dealers disappointed. They had been hoping for a fall below 3 per cent.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 1/4 to £110.4 as the total number of contracts completed dropped to 75,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £1/2 at £107.32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £104.4.

NEW YORK: Bonds and equities were higher by mid-session in a follow-through to Wednesday's powerful and broad-based rally. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 28.87 points higher at 6,990.50.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6990.50 (+28.87)
S&P Composite 808.54 (+5.77)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18688.09 (+278.13)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13290.95 (+222.66)

Amsterdam:
SOE Index 712.50 (+4.92)

Sydney:
AO 2496.4 (+22.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3229.48 (+13.34)

Singapore:
Straits 3254.66 (+30.04)

Brussels:
General 11683.45 (+71.04)

Paris:
CAC-40 3628.41 (+99.08)

Zurich:
SIX 931.70 (+4.48)

London:
FT 30 2837.8 (+10.0)

FT 100 4367.1 (+22.8)

FTSE 100 4367.1 (+22.8)

FTSE 250 2147.7 (+10.0)

FTSE Europe 100 2158.38 (+14.79)

FT All-Share 2102.25 (+5.59)

FT Non Financials 2148.43 (+12.54)

FT Financials 119.43 (+0.22)

FT Govt Secs 96.56 (+0.02)

FTSE 100 Vol 490.1

SEAI Volume 437.2m

US\$ 1.6222 (+0.0110)

German Mark 2.7367 (+0.0025)

Exchange Index 92.8 (-0.4)

Bank of England official rate (4pm) 1.040

ECB 1.040

154.4 Dec (2.3%) Jan 1997-100

154.2 Dec (2.1%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Endowment Red 55p

CBS Publishing 175

Calderdale Group 3p

Calsonic 1p

Enterprise West (100) 89p

Episcure Network 55p

GB Railways 177p

Hardy Underwear 167p

HMS Group 167p

John Lewis 57p

Norfolk 57p

Oxford Biomedica 52p

Parkwood Holdings 73p

Preclude Tat 118p

Preclude Warrants 42p

Sunderland 75p

Sutton Harbour 128p

Ten Plantations Inv 103p

Ten Plantations Ws 30p

Zicor Mining 24p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Finlist Gp n/p (300) 50p

Gr Fordian n/p (100) 12p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISE:

Chubb Sec 420p (+79p)

Smith & Nephew 188p (+22p)

Nat Home Loan 180p (+7p)

English Nat 240p (+10p)

Clifton Card 248p (+5p)

Argent 450p (+18p)

Corvex 238p (+7p)

Carlton Comm 582p (+7p)

Argon 180p (+18p)

Compass Gp 736p (+18p)

Redland 351p (+8p)

FALLS:

Ashley (Laur) 135p (-11p)

Brit Bloch 239p (-9p)

Henlys 542p (-18p)

Photobank 428p (-11p)

London Clubs 387p (-7p)

Laporte 460p (-8p)

Com Union 715p (-10p)

Walsingham R 820p (-12p)

Delta 338p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Allies sought in pump wars

LOOKING at the paltry returns from refining oil and selling petrol, it is easy to wonder in a bad year why giants of the industry such as Shell and BP bother. The capital employed in these activities would sometimes earn a better return in the bank.

It is, of course, inconceivable that Royal Dutch/Shell, the world's second-largest oil company would sit back and do nothing. The message from both sides of the North Sea yesterday seemed to be: if you can't beat them, join them.

In London, Shell let slip that it was in talks with one or two British supermarket groups over joining forces in an effort to fight the war raging on petrol forecourts up and down the country. Rival BP, it should be noted, has already joined up with Sainsbury, and in the Netherlands Shell has struck a deal with

Koninklijke Ahold, the country's largest retailer, to have food shops at Shell petrol stations.

Over in The Hague, Royal Dutch said it was considering teaming up with another large oil company in Europe in an effort to boost the margins on refining oil. The group has already shut a refinery in Switzerland and cut capacity at one in the South of France. Shell said that both refining and petrol margins were better in 1996 than in 1995 but were still not satisfactory.

Overall the picture at Shell looks bright. But like BP, Shell is wary of the impact of renewed Iraqi oil exports on the oil price later this year. The two-for-one scrip issue and dividend increase helped outlast any doubts on yesterday's fourth-quarter profits and the mixed outlook for 1997.

Chubb

IT IS hardly a smash-and-grab raid, but Chubb, the locksmith, should provide some further clues to its future this morning with the market braced for details of an agreed bid. The company teased the market yesterday with a statement that it is involved in talks that may lead to an offer of up to 450p a share. The market clearly expects an offer slightly above 420p after pushing Chubb shares 20 per cent higher yesterday.

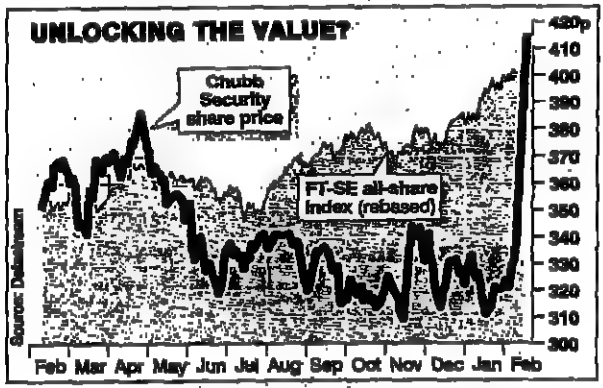
Chubb has left itself vulnerable to a bid after two years of sluggish growth. The company has failed to realise the expectations which greeted its arrival as an independent company after demerger from Racal in 1992. The recent attempt to revitalise the company through an acquisition spree

has been met with scepticism by the market. The £107 million paid for James Hardie Building Services in Australia was seen as too much for a business barely making a profit.

Chubb admits that the acquisition will act as a drag on profits in the short term while competitive pressures have hurt margins in the

traditional physical security market. The consensus was that Chubb would not show real growth for at least another couple of years.

But Chubb has a strong brand name and the security market is set to continue to grow over the coming years. In a safer pair of hands the company may well fulfil some of its early promise.



Philips

PHILIPS is in a curious situation - after the publication of results yesterday, the markets have been surprisingly positive given the huge losses, while Moody's, the ratings agency, has warned customers of a potential downgrade in Philips status.

Such diverging views about the future of the group seem illogical to say the least. However, the threat of a break-up of the electronics giant could explain the separate trends that the markets are following.

If Cor Boestra, the new chief executive, decided to dismantle the slow-moving vehicle he is currently in charge of, then the different analyses make sense. Share prices are expected to go up after a demerger, while the debt, or parts of it, will become less valuable.

In the meantime an actual downgrade from Moody's would be a real blow. The agency said that it will exam-

ine the potential for Philips to achieve cashflow generation from key business units and from asset sales, which could be used to pay the restructuring costs. The Grundig partnership in Germany poses a problem that is not yet fully resolved.

If Mr Boestra is thinking about a demerger, he should make a decision quickly and pre-empt Moody's.

Morgan Sindall

MORGAN SINDALL, the building group, is on the move. After producing another set of strong results, it is easing away from the refurbishment sector that has served it so well. It is now trying to sprinkle the same magic on its building contracting arm.

The task will be much harder. The group still generates 60 per cent of its business in London and its growth so far has been by demand in the capital for office refurbishment.

It claims that its strategy - people power - holds good for both areas. It is aiming for better business, and to win the right staff it runs an aggressive recruitment policy.

It will then snap up ailing family companies, and resuscitate them with its own staff. Business will come through the regions, and in the form of lots of small contracts.

With the building industry still getting over its hard times, there should be plenty to choose from, and underperforming businesses are not normally expensive. Morgan has a strong balance sheet and cash of £9 million.

Its own management has a strong fan club in the City, and this has helped its shares to reach a rating of 28.5 times earnings. Its building division has performed exceptionally well even without the special attention now being promised to it - at a slight premium to market average, the shares are good long-term value.

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (London 6pm)

Brent 19.50-19.55 Mar 19.50-19.55

WTI 19.50-19.55 Mar 19.50-19.55

WTI Intermediate 19.50-19.55

WTI Light 19.50-19.55

WTI Heavy 19.50-19.55

WTI Ultra 19.50-19.55

WTI Super 19.50-19.55

WTI Ultra 19.50-19.55

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WTI Ultra 19.50-19.55

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt 112.18-112.22 Mar 112.18-112.22

German Govt Bond (Bund) 102.10-102.15 Mar 102.10-102.15

Italian Govt Bond (BTP) 101.10-101.15 Mar 101.10-101.15

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB) 101.10-101.15 Mar 101.10-101.15

Three Mth Sterling 93.10-93.15 Mar 93.10-93.15

Three Mth Eurodollar 93.10-93.15 Mar 93.10-93.15

Three Mth Eurodollar 93.10-93.15 Mar 93.10-93.15

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Three Mth Eurodollar 93.10-93.15 Mar 93.10-93.15

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.5000-1.5017 Mar 1.5000-1.5017

Canada 1.5000-1.5017 Mar 1.5000-1.5017

Denmark 6.4603-6.4610 Mar 6.4603-6.4610

France 6.5596-6.5603 Mar 6.5596-6.5603

Germany 1.9362-1.9369 Mar 1.9362-1.9369

Hong Kong 7.7562-7.7569 Mar 7.7562-7.7569

Italy 1.9362-1.9369 Mar 1.9362-1.9369

Bank's record demonstrates no need for independence



ANDREW KAYE

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Generating a good press

THE decision by British Energy to sponsor the Cub Scouts PR badge has brought happy memories flooding back to its chief executive, Robert Hawley, tells me that he was a King's Scout and troop leader with the Wallasey pack in Merseyside.

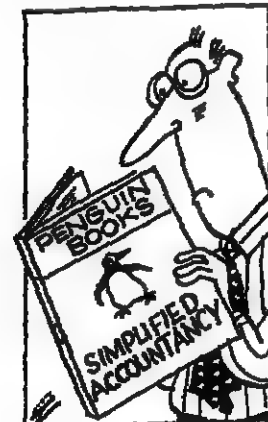
The privatised nuclear power company is splashing out £12,000 a year to have its logo on the scouting badge for public relations proficiency. To launch the sponsorship deal, British Energy is hosting a PR workshop for about 100 scouts at Heysham nuclear power station in Lancashire. To earn the badge, scouts have to place a story in their local paper, deliver a five-minute talk on scouting, and organise a promotional event. They also have to produce a newsletter, and arrange a visit to a local newspaper or TV station. No bob-a-job.

A TELL-TALE name raised a flutter at the Securities and Futures Authority after a former senior trader with Henry Ansbacher was expelled by the City watchdog for matters surrounding the improper transfer of \$70,000 to his associate's account in Zimbabwe ... one David Crook.

Write lines

THERE'S hope for us all. Paul Myers, 49, the highly rated chairman of Gartmore, is to head the new NatWest Wealth Management arm. Before the non-executive director of Orange embarked on his heady career in the Square Mile with Rothschild, the distinguished former Powergen and Inno director was a City journalist. Where next? NatWest board, perhaps?

PENGUIN may wish to inspect its bookshelves more closely in the future. News of the publishing company's bumper charge for improper accounting brings to mind a learned guide on the subject. Insight Into Management Accounting, by John Sizer, priced at £9.99 and published by Penguin.



That's business

A VALENTINE'S gift gone awry for Tim Melville-Ross. The director-general of the Institute of Directors will today be told that Livingstone Guarantee intends to sever its links. After two years, the independent corporate finance house for unquoted companies is instead joining forces with magazine Real Business. Due out in March, the magazine is published by Caspian, whose chief executive Mike Bokac was the runaway marketing director from the IOD.

CITY smoochers will tonight be heading for Bleeding Heart Yard. The subterranean watering hole in Grenville Street has been hailed the City's most romantic restaurant. Richard Hardern, an ex-barrister and former Samuel Montagu corporate financier, and his younger brother Peter, an ex-junk bond analyst for Saudi International Bank in New York, pump for the low-lit loveliness in this year's edition of Harden's London Restaurants.

MORAG PRESTON

The Old Lady has done well in maintaining the value of sterling in the long term

By the poor Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, the Bank of England has come in for a lot of abuse lately. It has misjudged the economy. It has misunderstood the currency markets. And—most heinous sin of all in the eyes of the British establishment—it has been publicly defeated in its tug of war with the Chancellor over interest rates. All these humiliations seem to have polarised informed opinion about the central bank.

A small but growing camp is inclined to regard the Bank as an ineffectual institution which has lost touch with economic and political reality and can safely be ignored. Although this view is only held by a small minority it may be gaining ground in the Labour Party, whose official policy is to "examine the Bank's record" in making its policy judgments, with a view to proposing sweeping reforms of the way it is run. A more vocal majority takes exactly the opposite view, saying that the Bank's persistent failure to impose its will on the Chancellor is irrefutable proof that it needs to be given more power. This camp wants the Bank to be given complete independence from the Government and from Parliament—a demand that is usually combined with the earliest possible membership of the European Monetary Union, which would cure Britain of its chronic monetary incompetence once and for all.

But before everybody gets too excited about the inherent instability in the present system for conducting monetary policy in Britain, two points should be borne in mind. The first is simply that the present disagreement between the Bank and the Chancellor is pitiful. The difference between them on the right level of interest rates amounts to just one quarter of a percentage point. The second caveat is less familiar but more important: Britain's long-term record in the conduct of an independent monetary policy is by no means bad. In writing that sentence I know from bitter experience that I am exposing myself to a torrent of abuse. Readers who were

robbed by inflation in the 1970s are remarkably ungrateful to anyone who suggests their misfortune was just an historical aberration, rather than a symptom of original sin. Nevertheless I shall brave the flood of irate letters to point out some facts.

Not only is the Bank of England the oldest continuous issuer of currency in the world, it is also the most successful. The purchasing power of the pound today is only 7 per cent of what it was in 1950, which means that Britain has suffered more from inflation in the second half of this century than most leading economies. But a longer perspective shows that the British authorities have actually done an outstanding job.

In the 97 years since 1900 the pound has fallen to roughly 5 per cent of its initial value. That may seem a horrendous loss, but it is not nearly as bad as it seems when considered in the appropriate perspective. The average annual inflation of 4.7 per cent which, through the magic of compound interest, produces this dreadful result was actually rather low by international standards. Indeed, during the same century when the purchasing power of the pound depreciated to 5 per cent, the German

mark, the French franc, and the yen were all reduced to less than 0.1 per cent of their initial value. This means that Britain's record of long-term price stability has been 50 times better than these countries'. More significant from a practical standpoint is the fact that money invested in the government securities sold 100 years ago by the Bank of England would today be worth more, even in real terms, than when it was bought.

I do not have figures going back to 1900, but the Gilt-

land can boast a record of long-term financial stability comparable to this.

Before I am accused of indulging in absurd anachronisms which have no possible bearing on today's conditions, let me turn to some more up-to-date statistics on both the internal and the external purchasing power of the pound.

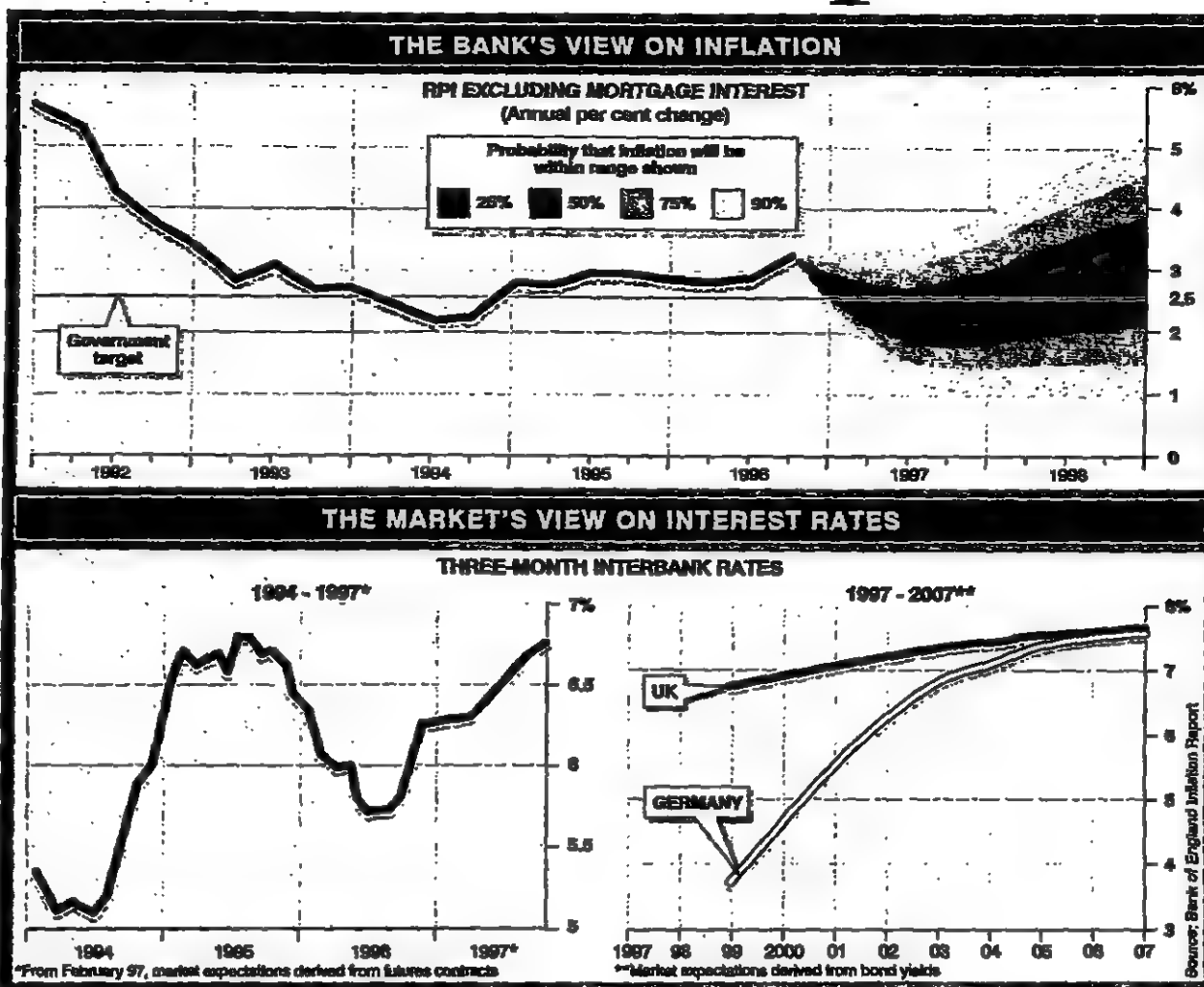
Over the eight years from 1988 to 1996 (a period which includes both Lawson boom and Major bust) Britain's inflation has averaged 2.96 per cent annually, indistinguish-

Only America and Switzerland can boast a record comparable to this

Equity study published annually by BZW, the London-based merchant bank, shows that gilt-edged securities produced a positive real return of 1.9 per cent annually in the 76 years from 1919 to 1995. This means that £1,000 invested in gilts in 1919 would be worth about £200,000 today—four times the investment's original value after allowing for inflation. In the same period German, Japanese and French families would have lost all their savings many times over. Only America and Switzer-

land can boast a record of long-term financial stability comparable to this. Before I am accused of indulging in absurd anachronisms which have no possible bearing on today's conditions, let me turn to some more up-to-date statistics on both the internal and the external purchasing power of the pound.

Over the eight years from 1988 to 1996 (a period which includes both Lawson boom and Major bust) Britain's inflation has averaged 2.96 per cent annually, indistinguish-



12 months. It is only from mid-1998 that the Bank fears an acceleration—and this could easily be prevented by a modest tightening of either monetary or fiscal policy later this year. This fairly benign outlook is also what the financial markets now expect, as shown in the bottom charts (also drawn from this week's Inflation Report). The left-hand chart shows that markets now expect only a half-point increase in interest rates, to between 6.5 and 6.75 per cent, after the election. The right-hand chart shows that markets see no substantial difference between monetary conditions in Britain and Germany in the long-term. The Bank's analysis of market bond yields shows that British rates are expected to stay in a range of 6.75 to 7.5 per cent over the next ten years, while German rates rise steadily towards the British level. This suggests that interest rates in Germany are substantially lower today than they are in Britain largely because of the different cyclical positions of the two economies and not because long-term inflation is expected to be lower in Germany than it is here.

Looking at the pound's performance in the currency markets confirms the same impression. Last year the pound was the world's strongest leading currency. The future is, of course, unpredictable. I personally expect it to weaken in the year or two ahead against the US and Canadian dollars, but to hold its own or even strengthen a little against the mark, lira, franc and yen. Such hunches may not be worth the paper they are printed on; what matters is that no one in the currency markets any longer dismisses the possibility of a fundamentally strong pound.

None of the above means that Britain's methods of monetary management are beyond improvement. Much could be done both to make the Bank of England more accountable and to expand its present ridiculously narrow remit, which requires it to focus on inflation and nothing else.

Such incremental reforms would certainly be desirable, but it is simply nonsense to suggest that Britain can only maintain stable prices by compromising the democratic control of economic policy—or by giving up its national sovereignty. There is a perfectly reasonable alternative to EMU and central bank independence: to leave well alone.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bonuses not justified

From Mr D. R. McCormick

Sir, The directors and senior management of Scottish Amicable proposed bonus payments to themselves of up to £4 million from an ill-considered demutualisation plan.

The beneficiaries of this largesse identified themselves and no doubt agreed the ratio in which the money would be shared between them.

The only justification for such payments would be that the recipients had been responsible for adding additional value to the funds of the with-profits shareholders who are the owners of the business.

But these are the same people who destroyed much value in the with-profits funds.

They were happy to take had pension business when it was obvious that a policyholder who was giving up the employer's contribution and taking on the higher costs of a personal pension would retire with lower benefits. The substantial costs of identifying these cases and making restitution to the victims is met by the with-profits policyholders.

Equity requires that the total of these costs be charged against any termination payment or bonus which might otherwise have been paid to them in the ratios which they themselves have set.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD MCCORMICK,
30 Kirk Brae,
Kincardine on Forth,
Clackmannanshire.

Monetary union ends rate choice

From Mr James Hartley

Sir, It is extraordinary how, on the one hand, we hear Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, advocating the case for joining the European single currency, and, on the other, in his periodic meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England, he refuses hikes in bank base rate.

Does the Chancellor not realise that in the event of UK membership of the single currency, he or his successors would be told what bank rate will prevail by the European Central Bank, thereby denying any regulation of the UK economy by changing UK bank rate?

Yours sincerely,
JAMES HARTLEY,
The Old School House,
Theddlethorpe All Saints,
Nr. Louth, Lincolnshire.

Paul Durman on how optician hopes to make us see sense

D&A's eye-catching campaign

Dollond & Aitchison had a problem. The trouble with being Britain's biggest optician is that no one really likes to wear glasses.

The point is most graphically made by an estimate that there are up to five million drivers on Britain's roads who need glasses but who choose not to wear them. The same message emerged from D&A's own research. Even many people with glasses do not wear them because of a lack of confidence in their appearance.

Alisdair Luxmoore, D&A's marketing director, said: "Wearing spectacles is perceived as negative by almost everyone. Women fear an utter loss of femininity—there really was this perception that they weren't going to get passes when they were wearing glasses. Whereas for men, it was a case of 'rugby players don't wear glasses'—a sign of weakness, a physical interpretation of it."

Italians are not so self-conscious. D&A's sister company in Italy is able to sell "clear glass" spectacles to customers with good eyesight who like to wear them as a fashion accessory. In Germany, too, some people will change their ties.

This insight was the catalyst for D&A to make important changes to the way it sells glasses. The overhaul includes a new corporate identity and slogan, changes to the appearance and layout of the com-



Star treatment: Burt Reynolds in Dollond & Aitchison's new television advert

pany's 440 branches and a £2 million television advertising campaign starring Burt Reynolds, starting on Sunday.

In part, this is a belated response to the threat posed by the likes of Vision Express and Specsavers, competitors that promise customers cheap prices and a one-hour fitting. D&A and its staff claim it offers a better-quality service, and the new approach and advertising will attempt to make the most of this.

The campaign, developed by Lowe Howard-Spink, uses the slogan: "Where everyone gets star treatment." As some-

one who has recently begun wearing glasses, Burt Reynolds, with his reputation for vanity and his willingness to poke fun at himself, was seen as ideal.

D&A, or rather Vantios, its parent company, is also working towards a stock market flotation, though probably not before next year. The company was bought out of Gallaher, the Benson & Hedges cigarettes manufacturer, in a £94 million deal backed by CVC Capital Partners in July 1994.

Mair Barnes, the former managing director of Woolworths who was Business-

woman of the Year in 1989, was brought in 18 months ago as executive chairman to beef up the management team. She recruited Russell Hardy from Safeways to be managing director, while Mr Luxmoore joined from Vauxhall.

D&A is aiming to make the process of buying glasses easier and more enjoyable, and to give customers a better chance of choosing the "right" pair for them. Just as with clothes, there are basic rules that can help customers to select glasses that will look good on them. Most people know they should not wear spots with stripes.

The rules for glasses are less well understood.

Since a pilot programme last July, D&A has retrained all staff in understanding the four key issues: facial shape, depth (the distance from eyebrows to nostrils), skin and hair tone, and personality or image.

This "Styleyes" programme is being backed up with "Computereyes"—a £5,000 computer with camera that allows the customer to compare his or her appearance wearing different pairs of spectacles. Computereyes, so far introduced to 70 branches, can show the customer four images side by side, and allows the salesperson to show the effect of different frame and lens types.

Mr Luxmoore said Styleyes has already brought big benefits in terms of customer satisfaction ratings. Although he is cagey on figures, there is also some evidence that it is persuading customers to spend slightly more on their glasses.

The refurbishment of the branches in D&A's new corporate colours of blue and caramel also acknowledges customer nervousness. Instead of centrally located desks, customers will in future be able to talk to their optician in small booths to one side of the shop.

D&A has so far converted only three of its existing stores. The cost involved means that D&A is unlikely to be able to complete the conversion programme before Vantios comes to market.



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TIMES 14/2

Corroon doubts value of merging

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE
CORRESPONDENT

WILLIS CORROON said yesterday it "remained sceptical" about the benefits of a merger with one of the big six insurance brokers, as it unveiled full-year results.

The City has speculated that Willis might link up with Sedgwick, following the announcement by Aon, a rival broker, that it was merging its operations with Alexander & Alexander. Max Taylor, group executive director, said: "We still remain sceptical about the benefits of scale for the sake of it."

Willis reported a 13 per cent rise in profit to £89.1 million before exceptional items and tax for the year to December 31 at actual exchange rates. This included a £3.1 million loss from movements in exchange rates.

John Reeve, executive chairman, warned that there were "continuing, frequently severe, falls in premium rates for most classes of risk." He added that competition in the US retail market was intensifying, UK insurance broking has been suffering from the effects of a mature and intensely competitive industry worldwide.

Willis's results included £14.5 million of profit commission from the group's Lloyd's members' agency, offset by a £6.3 million contribution towards Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal plan.

Profits on disposals of £2.5 million took the total pre-tax profit to £91.6 million. Earnings per share rose from 7p to 13p but the dividend per share has been maintained at 6.6p. Mr Taylor said the dividend would not necessarily remain unchanged for the year.

The results also include redundancy costs of £11.3 million. Staff numbers have fallen by 1,100 over the past year.



Sid Taylor, left, and Malcolm Jones, chief executive, celebrate a £2 million profit by Benson's Crisps, seeking growth in snacks

Benson's Crisps out of the red

BENSON'S CRISPS, the crisp and snacks company, has returned to profit after spending two years in the red (Sarah Cunningham writes).

In the year to November 30 pre-tax profits were £2.03 million, against a loss of £750,000 a year earlier. The recovery was partly because of the relaunch of Benson's branded crisps, with a new design, higher-quality packaging and better potatoes, which lifted the range's sales volumes by 20 per cent in the year.

The company's share of the crisp market has remained steady, at 6.5 per cent.

Sid Taylor, chairman, said that Benson's plans to increase its 4.5 per cent market share in snacks and last month filed processing line for tortillas.

Earnings were 4p a share (1p loss). A 0.75p final dividend, due on April 23, makes 1p. No dividend was paid last year. Gearing has eased from 64 per cent to 16 per cent. The shares rose 5p to 40½p.

Philips profits eroded by restructuring costs

BY OLIVER AUGUST

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, suffered a severe decline in annual pre-tax profits, which fell to £200 million from £600 million affected by problems in all of its divisions, it was announced yesterday.

Philips said that the drop was primarily because of a one-off charge of £600 million — compared to £60 million last year — relating to Grundig, its German partner, and other restructuring measures after the

collapse of the semiconductor market.

There was a fourth quarter loss of £310 million, compared to last year's profit of £220 million.

The share price in Amsterdam was not affected by the results, which had been expected after the reporting of increasing losses during 1996.

Philips said that based on the current economic outlook, it is confident that its ongoing business will continue to

grow, but investments in fixed assets will be tightly controlled.

Speculation about a possible splitting up of the group was denied by Cor Boonstra, the president. He said that Philips was pursuing its previously announced strategy of evaluating its units and preparing budgets for its businesses. Mr Boonstra added: "We're exactly in line with what we stated. We stick to our timetable."

According to Mr Boonstra the group will weed out under-performers and make its units more accountable to the head office.

He denied that the relationship with PolyGram, the 75-per-cent-owned music and film company, was under review. He also reaffirmed Philips' commitment to its troubled Sound and Vision unit, which produces television and audio equipment.

Analysts have speculated that Mr Boonstra might be tempted to fulfil his target of maximising value to Philips shareholders by splitting up the company.

De La Rue, the UK bank note printers, is to buy Philips' Smart Cards & Systems (PSCS). It said in a statement that its subsidiary, De La Rue Technology, and PSCS, which is located in France, have been working together in the UK since June 1993.

PSCS is a leading supplier of smart cards to a variety of sectors. It employs around 300 people.

De La Rue said: "Industry predictions show the smart card industry achieving rapid growth over the next five years as the agreement of international standards in all sectors supports volume roll-out of smart cards, and the associated readers."

BT's French ally clinches telecom deal

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

BT is in a strong position to attack the lucrative French telecommunications market after an alliance between its partner, Cegetel, and the country's railways, analysts said yesterday.

Cegetel, a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale des Eaux (CGE), the public utilities to media group, will be able to exploit almost 9,000km of fibre optic cables alongside the railway network. The agreement will make Cegetel, in which BT has a 25 per cent stake, a credible challenger to France Telecom in the deregulated European telecommunications market next year.

CGE and Bouygues, its French rival, had been engaged in a fierce battle for the right to use cables laid by SNCF railways, with experts warning that the loser would lack the infrastructure to compete with the state-owned France Telecom. Although France Telecom is certain to continue dominating the £100 billion market, rivals said that they can exploit its commercial failings.

Jean-Marie Messier, chairman of CGE, believes its turnover will rise from Fr4 billion in 1995 to Fr40 billion in 2003. Analysts said that the deal with SNCF made his prediction realistic. A spokesman for SNCF made clear that BT's presence alongside CGE was a key factor: "BT is a guarantee of commercial know-how..." he said.

American General to acquire USLife

AMERICAN General Corp is to acquire USLife Corp, a rival financial services company with major life insurance operations, for \$1.8 billion in shares. The acquisition comes amid consolidation in the American life insurance industry and follows weeks of speculation that USLife might be a takeover candidate. American General said that it will pay \$49 worth of its own common stock for each USLife share. American General is a diversified financial services company that provides retirement services, consumer loans and life insurance to nine million customers. It had 1996 sales of \$10.9 billion, and has about 15,300 employees. USLife, also a holding company, has operations in life and health insurance and other financial services. Its 1996 sales were \$1.6 billion, and it has about 2,140 employees.

BAA traffic up 5.2%

BAA reported that traffic at its seven UK airports increased 5.2 per cent in January, handling a total of 6.7 million passengers. The increase would have been 6 per cent but for fog disruption at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, which reduced the number of passengers by about 30,000. Flights using BAA airports also increased, with total air movements up 4.2 per cent, at 77,395 landings and take-offs. Cargo tonnage was up 7.6 per cent, at 112,000 tonnes.

Guernsey growth

THE POST OFFICE, British Energy, National Express Group and the Britannia Building Society were among 40 organisations to establish captive insurance companies in Guernsey last year. With 12 companies surrendering licences, the net increase was 28, taking the total of offshore insurance registrations in Guernsey to 335. Steve Butterworth, Superintendent of Insurance, said that surrenders were mainly because of mergers and acquisitions.

Tamaris raises £7.45m

TAMARIS GROUP, the operator of nursing homes, is raising £7.45 million through the sale and leaseback of three homes to IHP, a subsidiary of the United Bank of Kuwait's Healthcare Fund based in Guernsey. The three homes, with a total of 219 registered beds, are currently held by Tamaris at an aggregate freehold value of £6.44 million, and the transaction, which requires shareholder approval, will give rise to a profit of £1 million before expenses.

TeleWest post settled

STEPHEN DAVIDSON was finally confirmed yesterday as chief executive of TeleWest Communications, the largest cable company. He had been in an acting role since August and had expected to be confirmed in the post last November. TeleWest also confirmed the appointment of Charles Burdick, who has been acting chief financial officer. Mr Davidson is expected to consolidate TeleWest's position with the acquisition of one or more of the smaller cable operators.

Glen Electric expands

GLEN ELECTRIC, a subsidiary of Glen Dimplex, the privately owned Irish electrical heating appliance manufacturer, is to invest £5 million in its Newry plant in Northern Ireland. The investment, assisted by the Industrial Development Board, will create a further 100 jobs at the plant, which already employs more than 350 people. Glen Dimplex, which has a turnover above £150 million, also announced the purchase of a 49 per cent stake in Muller, its French equivalent.

EU jobless total dips

UNEMPLOYMENT in the European Union eased to an average 10.8 per cent in December from 10.9 per cent in the previous month. Those out of work fell to 18.1 million from 18.2 million. The principal reason was a drop in the unemployment rate in Britain to 7.5 per cent from 7.8 per cent, according to Eurostat, the EU statistics agency. Luxembourg had the EU's lowest unemployment at 3.5 per cent and Spain continued to have the highest at 22.2 per cent.

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Alexandria	£1,471	£449
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Kuwait	£1,726	£699
Lagos	£2,319	£899
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CHANGING TIMES

CAMECO CORPORATION

NOTICE OF PAYMENT DUE RELATING TO COMMON SHARES OF CAMECO CORPORATION REPRESENTED BY INSTALLMENT RECEIPTS SOLD BY CROWN INVESTMENTS CORPORATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

AMOUNT OF FINAL INSTALLMENT PER COMMON SHARE \$37.75 Cdn

TIME AND DATE FOR PAYMENT OF FINAL INSTALLMENT: BY 5:00 PM, (LOCAL TIME) ON MARCH 20, 1997

"Pursuant to the Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement entered into by, among others, Cameco Corporation, Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan and the Custodian (defined below), common shares ("Common Shares") of Cameco Corporation represented by Installment Receipts have been pledged as security for the payment of the final installment payable in respect of such Common Shares. If payment of the final installment is not duly received by The R-M Trust Company (the "Custodian") or, with respect to payments by holders of Installment Receipts in the United States, by ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C. (the "Custodian's U.S. Agent") as or before 5:00 pm (local time) on March 20, 1997, the Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement provides that (except as set out below) any Common Share (and any securities or property substituted therefore or in addition thereto) then remaining pledged under the Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement in respect of such Installment Receipts may, at the option of Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, subject to complying with applicable law, be required by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan in full satisfaction of the obligations of such holder of Installment Receipts secured thereby (other than, in certain cases, the obligation to pay applicable withholding taxes). The Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement further provides that Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan may direct the Custodian to sell the Common Shares (and any securities or property substituted therefore or in addition thereto) in respect of which payment of the final installment was not duly received, in accordance with the requirements of applicable law and of the Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement, and remit to the holder of the Installment Receipt the holder's pro rata portion of the proceeds of such sale, which shall in any event not exceed \$2.00 per Common Share. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if payment of the final installment in respect of an aggregate of less than 5% of the Common Shares represented by Installment Receipts has not been duly received by the Custodian or the Custodian's U.S. Agent, as applicable, when due, the Custodian must sell the Common Shares (and any securities or property substituted therefore or in addition thereto) in respect of which payment of the final installment was not duly received and apply the proceeds of such sale in the manner described above. In such circumstances, holders may wish to consult their own legal advisors with respect to their rights under applicable law. The Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement provides that unless Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan shall have required the Common Shares in full satisfaction of the obligation of a holder, the foregoing shall not limit any other remedies available to Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan against such holder of the Installment Receipt if the proceeds of such sale are insufficient to cover the amount of the final installment and the costs of the sale (such costs of sale not to exceed \$2.00 per Common Share) and accordingly, such holder shall in such circumstances remain liable to Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan for any such deficiency.

Holders of Installment Receipts who are non-residents of Canada will be required to pay all withholding taxes payable in respect of any Cash Dividends, Excess Dividends, Stock Dividends, Distributed Property or Reorganization (as such terms are defined in the Installment Receipt Agreement). Any such withholding tax will be payable on such distributions even if the payment thereof is directed to Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan on account of the non-resident's unpaid installments and even if there is not sufficient cash in the distribution to pay such withholding tax. Provision for the payment of this tax by non-residents is set out in the Installment Receipt and Pledge Agreement."

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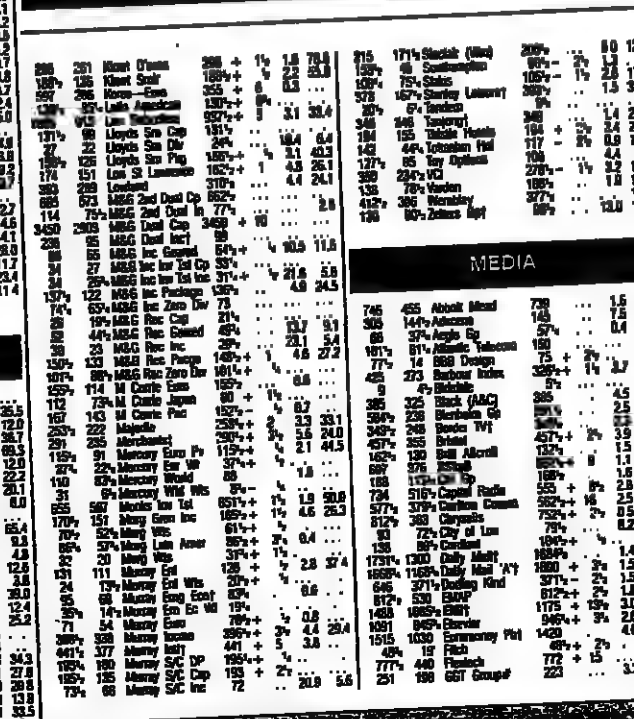
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DISTRIBUTION		TOTAL	
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QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES

FOCUS

John O'Leary introduces a four-page report on the initiatives in higher education which yesterday were rewarded by the Queen

A chance for recognition

There is not much good news in higher education at the moment. The long-awaited revival of expansion is in doubt, funding levels are expected to decline further whoever wins the election, and universities are having to withstand criticism over standards.

Yesterday, however, there was an opportunity to celebrate some undoubted successes with the second round of Queen's Anniversary Prizes. Conceived as higher education's equivalent of the Queen's Award for Industry and launched two years ago, the scheme offers high-profile recognition for some of the most innovative and worthwhile ventures in universities and colleges.

Sir Stewart Sutherland, Principal of Edinburgh University, one of the winners, said: "I and, I suspect, all my fellow Vice-Chancellors and Principals place a very high value on a Queen's Prize. For us, it represents both a welcome external acknowledgement of particular achievement and an opportunity to draw that achievement to the attention of the widest audience."

Each institution was limited to one entry, which had to demonstrate "world-class success". The 120 projects were declared by the judges to be of

Awards for some of the best ideas in universities and colleges

higher quality than many they saw two years earlier. Ken Robbie, director of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes Office, said: "The first round was pretty good, but institutions seemed to take particular care with their choice of entry this time and to take greater pains with their presentation."

The winning entries went through a rigorous selection process before specialists whittled down the field to a final shortlist. The awards council, chaired by Lord Younger of Preston, the former Cabinet minister, settled for 23 winners — two more than in 1994.

Three were second-time winners: Oxford University for work in molecular medicine, Queen's University Belfast for environmental research and training, and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology for technological and scientific partnerships with Japan.

But the successful entries did not all come from such famous seats of learning. Greenhead Sixth Form College, in Huddersfield, for example, won recognition for a monitoring system which has seen a dramatic improvement in students' examination performance. Dr Kevin Conway, the Principal, was one of the first to develop the type of "value-added" measurement which all the political parties now advocate.

Other winners included Liverpool Hope College, which has been training Tibetan teachers in India for a decade, and Sheffield College, where a new qualification has been developed for braille skills teaching.

All 23 winners received their gold medals yesterday from the Queen. The successes were celebrated at a Guildhall banquet, in the City of London. Planning for the third of the five rounds of prizes has already begun, with a likely closing date for entries little more than a year away. The assessment process is expected to be similar to last year's, with the winners announced at the end of 1998. Mr Robbie said: "It is not too soon for institutions to start thinking about their entries. We will be issuing the invitation to enter in the autumn."



Music students from Edinburgh University in the ruins of Sarajevo's City Hall

And the band played on

SCOTTISH WINNERS

One of the enduring images of the Bosnian conflict is a film of Vedran Smailovic playing the cello in a war-ravaged street of Sarajevo. To the outside world it symbolised the triumph of the human spirit. To Vedran's friends it was the inspiration to restore some kind of normality to a city torn apart.

To one, Professor Nigel Osborne, who has played alongside him, it was confirmation that music can have the most profound effect on people, particularly when their lives have been damaged.

Professor Osborne's way of helping to restore sanity was through young children. "They had absolutely nothing," he says. "Their lives had been wrecked, their homes had been destroyed and the schools were no longer functioning. We needed to find them some sort of meeting ground and for me that was music."

"We explored ways of getting them back to school and found that we were able to bring children of all faiths together through creative work, experimenting with music, drama, dance and art. We helped them to live again like children, to make them laugh and to make them sad, too, because that is part of life."

This work is continuing on a long-term basis with the help of third-year music students from Edinburgh University, where Professor Osborne runs the prize-winning music in the community course. There are links with Sarajevo University and small groups regularly travel to Mostar, visiting every primary school in turn to encourage musical activity. The Edinburgh course emerged from a collaboration with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, helping music teachers to develop creativity.

Now its programme of training, research and development has taken students into Scottish schools, hospitals, social work centres and prisons.

Professor Osborne says: "So many can benefit. We have had a West African drummer helping children with profound learning difficulties. Simple rhythms can also help old people with dementia to regain moments of self-respect. We have developed a form of tactile notation for the visually impaired from simple objects like forks or cups."

"A long-term prisoner who three years ago knew not a note of music is having his opera performed in Edinburgh this month."

The second of the Scottish prizes goes to the University of Strathclyde for the world-class teaching and research of its Centre for

Electrical Power Engineering, led by Professor Owen Farish, which has partnerships with major power companies across the world.

Its graduate development scheme for potential leaders in the industry, the technical equivalent of the Master of Business Administration (MBA), has achieved such recognition that its first overseas course is now in its second year in Hong Kong, where the centre has close links with the China Light and Power Company. A course is due to start in Thailand for engineers from its power companies. Talks are under way for setting up a course in Malaysia.

Korea is already involved in research projects and Indonesia is a possible future partner. A spin-off company, Diagnostic Monitoring Systems, set up last year as a result of the centre's pioneering work on substation design, supplies equipment to Italy, Brazil, Hong Kong and Germany.

ALAN JENKINS



University of Birmingham: The Wroxeter Project: archaeology, technology and the community.
Cardiff College: Educational access throughout life.
University of Edinburgh: Music in the community: a course for advanced music students.
University of Exeter: Diabetes and vascular health education and research: microvascular processes and associated work.

Greenhead Sixth Form College: Performance monitoring to realise student potential.
Hackney Community College: Bringing young women into the sciences.
University of Hull: Social work practice: consultancy, teaching and research.
King's College London: Medical law and ethics: teaching, research and public debate.
Leeds Metropolitan University: Technology transfer to

small and medium sized businesses.
Liverpool Hope College: The Leishen Project: teaching and training in India for Tibetans.
The London Institute: Paper conservation: teaching and technology.
University of Manchester: Biological sciences: multidisciplinary teaching and research.
Middlesex University: Learning in the workplace: off-campus learning, training and

research for commerce, industry and public services.
College of North West London: East European links: expertise and skills transferring to Bulgaria and Russia.
The Open University: Teacher training: opening up careers through part-time distance learning.
University of Oxford: Molecular medicine: collaborative research and transfer of results.
The Queen's University of Belfast: Environmental research: research and training in partnership with industry.
School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London: International distance

learning: economics and finance across the globe.
The Sheffield College: Braille skills accreditation: providing a new qualification.
University of Strathclyde: Electrical power engineering: teaching and research.
University of Surrey: Satellite engineering and communications: teaching and research.
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology: Technical education, technology transfer and academic and trade relations with Japan.
University of York: Computer science: teaching, research and transfer of technology.

THE UNIVERSITY of York

UK industry looks to York for world-class computer technology solutions

The computing industry is the fastest growing sector in the world economy, as industry seeks computing solutions for an ever-wider range of technologies. A higher proportion of British businesses seek those solutions at York than anywhere else. Why?

The Department of Computer Science at York has a research grading of Five Star, the very highest possible. It also received a rating of 'Excellent' in Teaching Quality Assessment, again the highest possible. Both ratings are awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council.

This year the University of York has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for its work in Computer Science, particularly in technology transfer to industry.

"The Department of Computer Science has established a pre-eminence in many fields of computer science teaching and research. It couples high quality teaching to the practical research and training needs of industry and commerce at a level internationally regarded as world-class". (Queen's Anniversary Prize citation).

The Department's research groups include:

Advanced Computer Architectures; High Integrity Systems Engineering; Human-Computer Interaction; Intelligent Systems; Programming Language and Systems; Real Time Systems.

The Department has excellent study opportunities:

Undergraduate courses: Computer Science; Computer Systems and Software Engineering; Computer Science and Mathematics; Information Technology, Business Management and Language.

Postgraduate courses: MSc in Information Processing; MSc in Safety Critical Systems Engineering; MSc, MPhil and DPhil by research.

To find out more please contact:

Dr Keith Mander, Head of Department
Department of Computer Science, University of York, York YO1 5DD
Telephone: 01904 432727 Fax: 01904 432767
Email: mander@cs.york.ac.uk

Undergraduate courses
Jenny Baldry 01904 432761

General enquiries
Valerie Atkinson 01904 432720

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Maggie Burton 01904 432721

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The University of York extends its thanks to the following organisations who support the research activities of the Department of Computer Science:
British Aerospace • British Council • BT • Canon Research Europe • Commission of the European Communities • Daimler-Benz • Defence Research Agency • Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council • Environment Agency • European Space Agency
Glaxo Wellcome • Health and Safety Executive • Hewlett-Packard • National Power
Northern Electric • Porta Systems • Post Office • Rank Xerox • Rolls Royce
Schlumberger • Shell Research • Siemens Plessey • Synoptics Ltd

Sky High at Surrey

Groundbreaking research in the field of satellite engineering and communications has won the University of Surrey a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. In another boost for the University's Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, it achieved the top 5* ranking in the latest Research Assessment Exercise.

In our research we aim high - we pioneered affordable access to space with smaller, faster, cheaper satellites. But we don't have our heads in the clouds and we don't stop at producing first class research - we apply it. Our satellite engineering and communications expertise is employed in our own company Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) and in the work of our Centre for Satellite Engineering Research (CSER) and Centre for Communication Systems Research (CCSR).

CSER & SSTL provide a unique combination of advanced satellite research coupled with commercial application in a University environment. They have built and launched 12 highly sophisticated microsatellites placing Britain at the forefront of the international satellite industry by leading the world in:

- pioneering faster, cheaper satellites since 1979 and launching two microsatellites per year since 1990 at an average cost of £2m each - a tiny fraction of conventional space costs.
- researching innovative and cost-effective small satellite techniques - and then proving them in orbit by actually designing, building and launching microsatellites.
- demonstrating real-life applications of microsatellites to Earth observation, communications, science & defence.
- providing technology transfer and in-depth training to emerging space nations - enabling seven countries to take their first steps into orbit with Surrey at low-cost and risk.



CCSR is a core member of two UK Virtual Centres of Excellence in Research into Mobile and Personal Communications and Multimedia Broadcasting. It also:

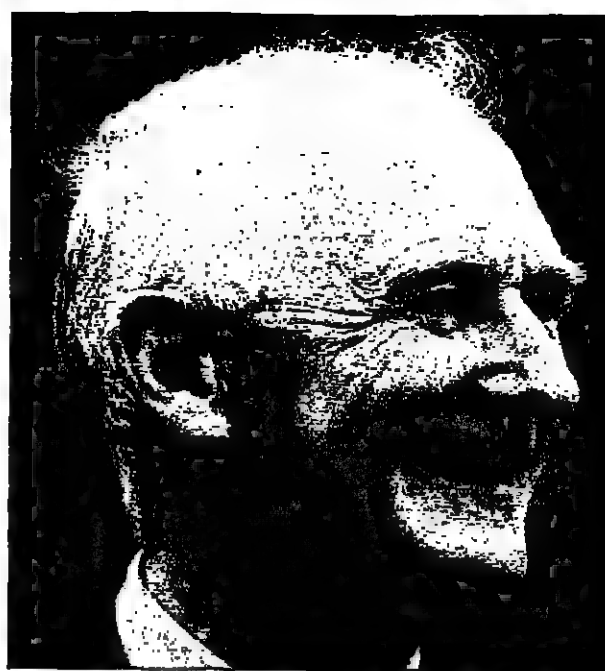
- is internationally renowned in the key areas of mobile and multimedia communications, broadband networking and digital signal processing.
- attracts £3m annually in research funding.
- is a major participant in EU Framework Projects.
- collaborates widely with industry in Europe and the US.
- runs unique Masters and Continuing Education programmes in satellite and mobile communications.



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Fax: 01483 239509
Email: ccsr@cs.surrey.ac.uk
<http://www.cs.surrey.ac.uk/CCSR/>

David Charter on where 'Mr Fixit' says higher education must go next



Sir Ron Dearing: "There may even be an anti-HE culture"

Sir Ron is also known to favour closer links between academe and the needs of industry and commerce. This week he met Chris Hum-

The Queen's Anniversary Prize citation for Middlesex's work could act as a summary for Sir Ron's own aims. The university is praised for "bearing directly upon a vital area of need in all industrial and developed economies ... its strategy brings obvious benefit to organisations in times of change and reliable qualifications for individuals".

Immediate benefits have flowed for both sides, with an innovative researcher bringing workplace challenges back

to the formation of a company

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Hidden beneath more than 150 acres of Shropshire countryside is the ancient city of Wroxeter, the largest Roman city in Britain to remain unscathed by later developments. Only a small

The university has been involved in the Wroxeter Project since 1953 and in 1994

Teams of international scientists, university students, the English Heritage Ancient Monuments Lab-

AMANDA LOOSE

Julie Davies, programme manager of the Centre for International Education in Economics at SOAS, is convinced the MSc must have

LUCY HODGES



Children in SOS children's village, Dharamsala, India, with students from Liverpool Hope's Ladakh project

Where there is Hope . . .

OVERSEAS EDUCATION

to life

Julie Davies, programme manager of the Centre for International Education in Economics at SOAS, is convinced the MSc must have

**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

REPRESENTING MERSEYSIDE IN THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE

Linda Pullen on a course providing practical experience to those preparing to become social workers

Students who play happy families

Hull University hopes the Queen's Prize will help its unique social-work agency to win contracts if the Government goes ahead with privatisation plans.

The Family Assessment and Support Unit (FASU) gives practical experience under supervision to students preparing for diplomas in social work. Set up in 1994, the unit has helped more than 500 families referred by social services. A further 2,000 have received counselling through schemes provided by employers.

It claims success in more than 60 per cent of cases at no cost to social services, and 85 per cent of people seeking help feel more able to cope afterwards. It has also done research on bullying and aggression in pre-school children, young car-crime offenders and the effects of autism on families.

The prize citation describes the agency as "unique and of empathic world-class. It sets out a pathway in the efficient study, teaching and resolution of recurring problems in the social-service field and provides an innovative practical basis of significant international research".

Three schemes that help small companies to boost business by tapping into academic expertise at Leeds Metropolitan University were described by the judges as "trail-blazing".

Under the university's Teaching Company Scheme a business needing help can call in an expert in fields such as marketing or environmental management. It has so far helped 54 projects which have, on average, produced profits double the initial investment.

A similar initiative, the Company Associate Partnership Scheme, brings in help from further education colleges and has already aided 33 companies. Another 40 developments are in the pipeline. The third project, Universties International Ltd, links entrepreneurs with ideas gathered worldwide by the university.

The judges described the initiatives as "a pioneering and highly productive relationship between academic and industry". Peter Rodgers, the university's External Business Development Centre head, said: "It is often thought that people in universities don't speak the same language as business people and don't understand the real needs of the business community."

"We have proved that you can break down these barriers with practical projects to improve companies' profitability as well as performance. Graduates involved in these schemes also get a tremendous boost at the beginning of their career as they take on high profile and responsible roles within the companies."

York University's computer science department is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence. The citation for its prize says: "It couples high-quality teaching with the practical research and training needs of industry and commerce at a level recognised as world-class."

It undertakes more industrially sponsored research than any other British university, currently holding about a fifth of the contracts in the market. It has established partnerships with leading companies and many of its graduates go on to jobs with them. The university provides postgraduate courses as part of development programmes for internationally famous firms such as Ford and Siemens.



Students preparing for diplomas in social work under the FASU's supervision discuss their casework with a lecturer



Five hundred families have benefited from the social service provided by the FASU

working on software safety analysis which detects aircraft faults, makes corrections and advises pilots and air traffic controllers on their next actions.

Another group is developing "data suits". Body sensors will allow wearers to operate a computer with the slightest gesture or movement. The concept would provide a useful tool for blind or deaf people.

culity of keeping people interested over the four years it takes to master the skill.

"I was working with adults who had to learn braille and found it difficult to maintain motivation," she said. "Knowing human nature, I knew it would encourage people if they had something to aim for." Only half of registered blind people use braille, and the figure plummets to less than one in ten among those who lose their sight as they get older.

The course is modular, with students learning at their own speed, either at the college or by correspondence. It was launched four years ago with only two people, but now has 34, with more on a waiting list. About half are blind, the rest want a qualification for jobs as rehabilitation officers or braille transcribers.

Six other colleges around Britain have taken up the programme and seven others are due to start soon. Cath Harding, a college official, said braille was usually dealt with by social services, not education departments. "This course has brought it into mainstream education," she says. The prize citation applauds the way the course breaks new ground. It is addressing an important national area of need in a constructive and valued way. It is an excellent and well thought-out initiative.

World leaders in their fields

MEDICINE

In 1986 the University of Manchester, recognising the need for the biological sciences to work together, established The School, a scientific community designed to promote research and educational programmes of the highest standards in biology.

Central to its function is collaboration between scientists and clinicians, between biologists and other academic disciplines, with industry and with the community. To date, benefits include groundbreaking discoveries about the way in which wounds heal, work that has led directly to new techniques for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and the identification of a new type of drug resistance in cancer therapy.

These results have been accompanied by a dramatic increase in the number of students, and within a decade this department has established a worldwide reputation for the quality of its teaching and research. A building to host joint ventures with industry is due for completion next year.

Professor Tony Trinci, the dean, is confident that this facility will deliver benefits of national significance. "It will support further discovery in this crucial field of science well into the next century," he says.

Diabetes is one of the world's most persistent diseases, afflicting over 100 million people worldwide, with 500,000 insulin-dependent sufferers in the UK.

The establishment of the Diabetes and Vascular Health Education and Research Centre at the University of Exeter in 1993 has involved the harnessing of healthcare and academic endeavour. The result is an internationally acclaimed research programme with a rare specialisation in microvascular work, and innovative models of care for people with diabetes.

A wide array of technologies for investigating aspects of human small-blood vessel pressure has been assembled using computer, laser and television technology at an advanced level.

Professor John Tooke, the director, says: "The unique technologies we are now using hold the key to the understanding of diabetic complications."

The revolution in biology has led to the development of new branches of science, molecular and cell biology. In 1989 the University of Oxford decided on an innovative approach to the problems posed by the new branches of science. The result was an Institute of Molecular Medicine, intended to address the shortage of laboratories, staff, equipment and clinicians with the expertise to compete in this type of research.

Recognised as an important influence in the international development of molecular medicine, the institute has produced more than 1,500 peer-reviewed papers and made significant breakthroughs in genetic diseases, cancer, childhood infections and AIDS. Changes in science are raising profound questions for all of us: choosing the sex of children, animal organ transplants, and selective abortion in twin pregnancies, are three of the topics under debate.

Since its establishment in 1978, the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College London, has developed an outstanding reputation for world class teaching and research in the area of medical law and ethics. It undertakes both individual and collaborative research, analysing and suggesting solutions to the legal and ethical problems facing practitioners.

Professor Arthur Lucas, the Principal of King's College, says: "The centre influences decisions on issues that affect every member of society, whether directly or by its influence on the ethical climate in which we live."

ROS DRINKWATER

WHEN the number of science A-level entries from girls at Hackney Community College, east London, fell to three in 1990, the science department felt it was time to act, and in doing so won a Queen's Anniversary Prize, Amanda Loose writes.

Pat Mahoney, head of student support, says: "The fall reflected national trends. We felt we had to encourage talented young women to take up the sciences. They bring a particular perspective to scientific issues, such as reproduction and genetic engineering, which we can't afford to lose. Between 1991 and 1996 we had 198 female A-level entries. More than 70 girls have gone on to study science at university."

"The college promotion of female recruitment also benefited male pupils. One said that an advantage was that boys argued whether a-b equals c and girls asked why."



LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Leeds Metropolitan University is proud to receive a Queen's Anniversary Prize in recognition of its pioneering work with small and medium sized businesses.

This accolade bears testimony to the impact both higher education and smaller companies have on the national economy. The prize celebrates the enterprise and sheer enthusiasm of all those involved in the University's innovative technology transfer schemes and our commitment to regional regeneration.

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

THE UNIVERSITY IS HONOURED THAT THE PRIZE FOR STUDENTS OF THE MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME, LED BY PROFESSOR NIGEL OSBORNE, HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE AWARD OF A QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE 1996. THE PROGRAMME PROVIDES TRAINING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO THE USES OF MUSIC IN EDUCATION, IN CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND IN THERAPY AND REHABILITATION.

IN DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME THE FACULTY HAS FORMED CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE RIVER, A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS, EDINBURGH PRISON AND THE EDINBURGH DIRECT AID AND THE CHARITY WAR CHILD.

STRONG LINKS HAVE BEEN FORGED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO. THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION IN THE BOHEMIAN PART OF THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IN A NEWSROUND EXTRA SPECIAL, 'WAR CHILD', WHICH WAS ITSELF AWARDED ONE OF THE BRITISH FOUR EMMYS IN NEW YORK.



A Queen's Anniversary prize for clinical microvascular research

The unique clinical microvascular research being conducted by the Diabetes and Vascular Health Education and Research Centre forms a key activity of the University's Interdepartmental Institute of Clinical Science, run in partnership with the Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust; other Research Divisions include cancer research, molecular genetics, medical physics, biological chemistry and children's health and exercise science, complementing Postgraduate Medical School expertise in health care evaluation, mental health, primary care and complementary medicine. For further information regarding the research, educational and partnership opportunities in the health field at Exeter, including the Institute of Clinical Science, call 01392 403090

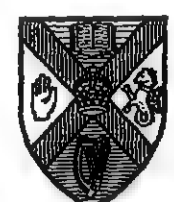


SOAS, University of London, is proud to receive a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its postgraduate distance learning courses in Financial Management and Financial Economics.

As a leading centre for the study of Asia and Africa, SOAS is an international community of scholars with a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. These include language and literature studies and programmes in the humanities and social sciences including Law, Business, Politics, Diplomacy, History, Development Studies and many more.

The Prize brings greater honour to the innovative MSc courses which have enhanced capability, performance and career development for working students worldwide.

SOAS, Thornham Street, Russell Square, London WC1N 0XG
Tel: 0171 637 2388 Fax: 0171 436 4211
email: CIBEUOL@SOAS.AC.UK
www: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/Centres/CIBE/>



The Queen's University of Belfast is proud to receive a second Queen's Anniversary Prize and congratulate all those involved in the QUESTOR Centre on bringing such a prestigious award to the University.

The Centre acknowledges the unrivalled support received from its industry members which has made such a valuable contribution to environmental research relevant to industry needs thereby making the award possible.



Saving the past for the future

The award of a Queen's Anniversary prize to the London Institute is a recognition of the pioneering work on the conservation of words and images on paper by Camberwell College of Arts during the past twenty-five years. This work has earned Camberwell an international reputation. Many of the College's graduates are now employed in key conservation roles throughout the world.

Collaboration with major national and international museums, galleries and collections is of crucial importance to the College.

Such collaborations are extensive and recent examples include significant contributions to the conservation of: The Library collection of Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, which contains some of the world's most important early bound manuscripts.

The letters of Charles Dickens

The original drawings of John Bentley, architect of Westminster Cathedral

The library at the Seminary at Montefiascone, Italy

Further details about Camberwell's pioneering work on the conservation of words and images on paper can be obtained from:

Richard Frost
Camberwell College of Arts
Peckham Road
London SE8 3UF
Telephone 0171 514 6300
Fax 0171 514 6310

GREENHEAD COLLEGE HUDDERSFIELD

Greenhead College is proud to receive a Queen's Anniversary Prize for quality and excellence in monitoring our students' performance to help them reach their full potential in A-levels.

The award recognises the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff and the benefits for students' achievement, recruitment and retention by the use of this innovative quality system designed specifically for education and increasingly adopted by other institutions throughout the country.

Contact: Dr Kevin Conway
Greenhead College, Greenhead Road,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 4ES
Tel: 01484 422022
Fax: 01484 518025
e-mail: greenheadcoll@compuserve.com

gc

Setting Training Standards for Europe

through the best of British Education

COLLOR OF North West London

1996 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education



THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University of Birmingham is very proud to have been awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the work of its Department of Ancient History and Archaeology on the Wroxeter project.



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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

In a class of their own

Lucy Hodges on the Open University's pioneering teacher-training programme

The Open University (OU) has won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its pioneering teacher-training programme — the first to apply distance-learning techniques to postgraduate teacher education.

Launched in 1994, the OU's Postgraduate Certificate in Education enables would-be teachers to train while in full-time work and was specifically designed to tap the huge pool of mature entrants to the teaching profession.

The programme also pioneered the use of information technology as an integral part of its teaching methods, ensuring that teachers emerge at least as computer-literate as their pupils. Students are lent a PC, printer and modem which are then donated to their in-service school. The course produces more than 1,000 teachers a year.

Middlesex University has won a prize for its national centre for work-based learning partnerships which enables people in work to design degrees around what they are doing. "Our whole aim is to develop educational opportunities for people at work,"

Jacqueline Davies, learning development tutor, says. "We're talking about building on people's experiences and developing them in workplace settings." Student numbers are 500 and expected to double in the next two years.

Cardiff College has won a prize for its "Opening More Doors" initiative, launched in 1993 to break down barriers that prevent people continuing with their education. "We planned how we could do that. Everything from changing the physical environment to appointing staff who can provide counselling and guidance,"

Tony Jakimow, the Vice-Principal, says.

Five years ago Carlisle was a traditional technical college. Today 60 per cent of students are aged over 21 and 60 per cent are females, and numbers have doubled in three years.

Greenhead Sixth Form College, in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, another winner, has moved in eight years from being below average in its examination results to being among the top three sixth form colleges in the country for its A-level results.

Students are assessed on arrival at the school and targets are set in discussion with the students and parents. Monitoring takes place each term and immediate remedial action is taken where necessary. Targets are raised for students who improve. The demand for places has increased numbers from just over 500 to close to 1,300. Last year the A level pass rate was 95 per cent, with 68 per cent of pupils achieving A to C grades.

The college takes pupils from nine partner schools so long as they have six grade Cs at GCSE. Almost 90 per cent of students go on to higher or further education.

PRESERVING RECORDS

AMONG the greatest advances in conserving our cultural heritage has been the development of new techniques to restore and preserve fragile or damaged documents, records and works of art, John Young writes.

At the forefront has been the London Institute's Camberwell College of Arts, in south-east London, whose former students have distinguished themselves in a wide and fascinating range of projects.

Nine former students are on the staff of the British Museum, including Gillian Roy,



An Open University student on a teaching placement

principal conservator and head of organic materials. She, while still at Camberwell, led a group working on the conservation of the John Piper cartoons in Chichester Cathedral and of several theatrical watercolours from the Garrick collection. Others are working on the papyrus to be displayed in a forthcoming exhibition of Egyptian mummies and on documents associated with the Calcutta Tercentenary celebrations.

Lenny Hanson, a darkroom technician at King's College Hospital before he went to Camberwell, is now curator of the Houghton Getty picture library where thousands of old photographs and films have been rescued from chemical decay. Other present and former students have advised on the conservation of the library of St Catherine's Monastery, in the Sinai desert, the letters of Charles Dickens, John Bentley's architectural drawings for Westminster Cathedral, Turner watercolours and Burne-Jones drawings in the Tate Gallery, and sketches by Beatrix Potter and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's brother, Dickie, in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Less conventional projects have included salvaging documents from the wreckage of the Piper Alpha oil platform and restoring a hydrogen balloon used by Sir John Franklin to send messages during his quest for the North-West Passage.



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The University of Strathclyde is delighted to receive the

QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE

through the work of its Centre for Electrical Power Engineering

- The Centre:
- provides R & D support for industry through strong partnerships with utilities and manufacturers;
 - has attracted research funding of over £2.5 million since its creation in 1990;
 - provides education and training for the power industry at undergraduate, postgraduate and post-experience level;
 - has over 90 staff and research students - the largest power-engineering activity of any UK university;
 - exports training and technology to Europe, South America and S.E. Asia.

Further information about the Centre's activities is available from Professor Owen Farish on 0141-548 2861, e-mail: o.farish@eeee.strath.ac.uk



A place of useful learning since 1796

SATELLITE RESEARCH

THE CENTRE for Satellite Engineering Research (CSER) at the University of Surrey leads the way in the research and development of microsatellites, Amanda Loose writes.

Professor Martin Sweeting, director of CSER, developed the first microsatellite in 1979, an efficient and affordable alternative to conventional satellites. Since then the university has launched Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), the only company in Britain building and launching the new satellites on a commercial basis.

Professor Sweeting says: "Microsatellites are small,

weighing around 50kg, sophisticated and cheap to launch. They respond more rapidly, reaching their orbit in 18 to 24 months, compared with the five to ten years it takes conventional satellites.

"They also have many uses, from orbiting the Earth and relaying images, to e-mail communications, remote sensing and environmental monitoring. Although SSTL satellites are built by professional staff, the company enables students to be involved in research satellites."

The centre opened in 1992 and has more than 150 staff and postgraduate students.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

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Single possession order made

Albany Home Loans Ltd v Massey and Another
Massey v Albany Life Assurance Company Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Schiemann
[Judgment February 12]

In general an order for possession ought not to be made against one of two joint borrowers where it would not be made against the other because the other joint borrower was entitled to remain in possession. In those circumstances a district judge ought to adjourn the proceedings with liberty to restore should the other borrower leave the property or an order for possession be made against the other borrower.

The Court of Appeal so observed dismissing an appeal by Frank Reginald Massey, the first defendant in the first action, who was also the plaintiff in the second action, against an order for possession of 7 Corbar Way, Mile End, Stockport, Cheshire, made by order of Judge Hammond in Stockport County Court on April 4, 1995 in favour of Albany Home Loans Ltd, the plaintiff in the first action.

Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmd 9097) provides: "Everyone has a right to respect for his

private and family life, his home and his correspondence. There may be no interference by a public body with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary... for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Mr Massey's defence was that he was in arrears because he had been wrongfully dismissed from his employment with Albany Home Loans Ltd by whom he was employed as a mortgage provider. That defence had been struck out by the judge because even if he was certain to succeed in his wrongful dismissal claim it was not a defence to the possession claim by the lender.

The mortgage on which the lender sued was made not only with Mr Massey but also with his wife Jacqueline, who had pleaded that as against her the mortgage should be set aside for undue influence. The lender had not, as yet anyway, obtained judgment for possession against her.

The district judge on January 9, 1995 had ordered Mr Massey to give possession of the property, but no order had been made against Mrs Massey.

The lender had not sought to enforce the order prior to an application on the wife's case and had proffered an undertaking that no action would be taken to enforce the order until an order was made against Mrs Massey or she vacated voluntarily.

In those circumstances there were no practical problems, but his Lordship saw force in the submission that the judge ought not to have made the possession order. Its result was that a husband was in breach of the court's order and the wife was held to contempt for remaining in the house in which his wife was entitled to remain and invite whom she pleased.

Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, although not exacted as part of domestic law, provided a clue to the solution of the problems posed by the case. It was common ground that the making of the order for possession, at the time

when it was made and at the present, was not necessary for the protection of the lender's rights. His Lordship referred to a dictum of Lord Templeman in *Downsview Ltd v First City Corporation Ltd* [1993] AC 295 that powers conferred on a mortgagee must be exercised in good faith for the purpose of obtaining repayment.

In a case where the exercise of one of two borrowers was of no benefit to the lender it seemed to his Lordship that it was not in general right to make an order requiring him to leave within the period during which the other borrower was in possession and entitled to be in possession. That most particularly he was the case where the borrowers were husband and wife.

It was oversteering the case for Mr Massey to say that the court had no power to make such an order. But the court should have disposed of the case so that the husband was not required to leave until his wife left. That result could have been achieved by an undertaking such as had been given in the instant case or by an adjournment under the general powers of the court.

Lord Justice Aldous agreed. Solicitors: McCormick, Harrogate; Mr B. M. D. Geiringer, Pottery Bar.

Savage v Chief Constable of Hampshire

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment February 6]

A police informer, who wished to sacrifice his anonymity by bringing proceedings to recover money allegedly promised to him by the police in exchange for the information, was not precluded on the ground of public interest immunity from making that claim.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, David James Savage, against the judgment of Judge Martin Tucker, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court in the Portsmouth District Registry, when he refused on July 27, 1995, the plaintiff's application for leave to amend his particulars of claim, and struck out the claim as being frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of the court's process. The Court of Appeal allowed the plaintiff's proposed amendments.

Mr David Barnard for the plaintiff; Mr Simon Russell for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that, from the pleadings to the claim, the court had to assume that after his arrest in 1990 for an offence of possession of drugs the plaintiff orally agreed to assist the police, that he would be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in serious crime or the prevention of property, and payment would be calculated on the basis of 10 per cent of the value of any property concerned, alternatively a reasonable sum would be payable.

In performance of that agreement, the plaintiff provided appropriate assistance and information and had not received the agreed or any reasonable payment. His Lordship said that it was likely an alternative view of those facts would be pursued if the case proceeded to trial.

The judge had held, in summary, that the plaintiff's claim was inadmissible as it involved an assertion that he was a police informer; he was not permitted to allege or give evidence to establish any such case. His Lordship said that the need to conceal the identity of informers was justified: *R v Hennessy* [1978] 68 Cr App R 419, 426; *D v National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children* [1978] AC 171. In a limited number of cases consent was justified on the ground that the police service could not otherwise function properly and perform its public duty: *Conney v Rimmer* [1968] AC 910, 933-934; *Attorney-General v British* [1984] 15 M & W 169, 185.

The principle firmly established in *Marks v Bégias* [1984] 25 QBD

Informer can waive anonymity

494, 498, 499 and constantly repeated thereafter was that immunity from disclosure was not a privilege to be waived by one party to the proceedings, and, second, non-disclosure was not limited to criminal prosecutions but extended in some circumstances to civil proceedings as well.

But, Lord Esher, Master of the Rolls, in that case did not use language to suggest that the principle applied to every civil action in whatever form the proceedings might take.

Where the informer himself positively wished his activities to be identified, and assuming he was an adult of reasonable intelligence, it was difficult to see why the court should prevent disclosure of his activities on the basis that his personal safety would be endangered.

Disclosure at his own insistence could not serve to undermine one of the essential features of arrangements between the police and their informers that their identity would normally be protected from disclosure.

If, in cases involving police surveillance from observation posts (for example *R v Johnson*

[1988] 1 WLR 1377), the views of occupiers of those premises, whose safety was most in need of protection, could be considered, then, in his Lordship's judgment, an informer's wish that his identity be disclosed could not without more be ignored on the basis of the immunity principle, and certainly in relation to civil proceedings taken by him after the conclusion of any relevant criminal prosecutions.

And further, from a separate line of authority as to whether public interest immunity attached to documents in cases involving complaints against police officers (*R v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, Ex parte Wiley* [1995] 1 AC 274, 299), his Lordship considered that if a police informer wished personally to sacrifice his own anonymity, he was not precluded by the automatic application of such immunity at the behest of the relevant police authority.

It was possible that despite his wishes there remained a significant public interest, extraneous to him and his safety, which would be damaged if he was allowed to disclose his role.

But his Lordship was unable to

understand why the court should infer, for example, that disclosure might assist others involved in criminal activities, or reveal police methods of investigation or hamper their operations, or indicate the state of their inquiries into any particular crime, or even that the possessed information suggested extreme danger to the informer if he were to proceed.

There was no evidence that any such considerations applied in the present case so as to tip the balance in favour of preserving the informer's anonymity against his wishes in the public interest.

Thus, while there might be unusual difficulties at the interlocutory stages of the proceedings, particularly in relation to discovery, and despite his Lordship's reservations about the likelihood of successful proceedings being brought by the plaintiff, leave to amend the pleadings should have been granted.

Lord Justice Potter gave concurring judgment and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds, Hetherington, Gosport; Mr P. B. Robertson, Winchester.

Enforcing order for costs

Wraith v Wraith and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment February 5]

Where a legally aided litigant who had had his case struck out for want of prosecution and against whom a costs order not to be enforced without leave of the court had been made, successfully claimed against his solicitor in negligence and the settlement included indemnity for the solicitor for any costs incurred by the litigant in the original action, then, on an application to enforce the costs order, the appropriate order for the court to make would almost certainly be to grant leave to enforce.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendants in an action between brothers concerning a business partnership against a decision of Judge Cooke, sitting as a High Court judge, dismissing the plaintiff's claim for costs against the defendant on the ground of a change in his circumstances under regulation 130 of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1999 No 339).

Mr Ian Karsten, QC, for the defendants; Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge had made a typical order for costs not to be enforced without leave of the court and the effect was to suspend the plaintiff's obligation of payment indefinitely. On any application by the defendant under regulation 130 the court might make such order as it thought fit and had a wide discretion as to the order that might be made.

Such an order was originally termed a "football pool" order, a phrase still in general use but the origins of which were somewhat obscure. In the case of the unsuccessful legally aided litigant coming into possession of substantial assets or otherwise being in a position readily to pay costs previously awarded to the other party, there seemed no reason in principle or common sense why he should be treated differently from a formerly impecunious litigant who won a football pool.

Nor was there any good reason to exclude from the list of considerations the settlement of an action, whether or not connected with the litigation in which the order for costs was made. Finally, where that settlement carried with it the right to an indemnity against payment of costs under the order the subject of the other party's application, the case for a variation was likely to be overwhelming.

The source of funds was not irrelevant in all cases. The court

could envisage cases where a source or condition governing use of a party's available funds might properly lead a court to leave the order out of account. Funds so devoted to ease hardship or meet expenses arising from personal injury following an unsuccessful action would be obvious examples.

The court did consider, however, that it was not appropriate in such a case to speculate on the result of underlying settlement of the solicitor's negligence action, nor seek to evaluate the plaintiff's chance of success in any action the outcome of which was uncertain.

When an order was made striking out an action it marked the end of the case, the basis of the order for costs in favour of the defendant being the default of the plaintiff or his advisers.

Any subsequent application for variation should not depend for outcome on balancing the notional advantage or disadvantage to the defendant had the action been fought. That was to give to the plaintiff or his advisers the benefit of their own default.

In any event, the plaintiff suffered no adverse financial consequences as he had the insured indemnity. The court could see no reason why solicitors who were fault should reap any benefit at the expense of the unsuccessful or legally aided party.

Solicitors: Hague & Dixon, York; Wansborough Willey Hargrave, Leeds.

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1. In which city are most of Woody Allen's films shot?

2. Robert Rodriguez was 23 when he made his first film. How old was Steven Spielberg when he made *Jaws*?

3. Which actor did Rodriguez work with when he was a Lab Rat?

4. What is the title of the comic book Rodriguez wrote for the *Esquire* magazine?

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TELEVISION

The digital revolution might just bring more live theatre to the small screen — at a price

THEATRE 1

A pessimistic but compelling view of life on a housing estate is offered in Peter Gill's *Cardiff East*

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 2

Not a nice play: *The Merchant of Venice* is presented with all its racism intact in Birmingham

TOMORROW

How does Cliff's Heathcliff measure up after its national tour? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

Coming to a small box near you

The cable and satellite revolution is going to bring a feast of arts coverage to television for those who are prepared to pay for it. Andy Lavender reports

Fancy seeing an opera this evening — even though you live miles from an opera house? Or a concert from one of the world's top orchestras, perhaps in Vienna or New York? Or how about a guided tour around, say, the splendours of Cubism? If so, simply turn on your television.

This easy scenario is perhaps closer than you think. Arts programming on TV has for years been a slender proposition. When it is on at all, it can be very hit and miss. Remember the esoteric delights and dismays of *Without Walls* on Channel 4? Or the BBC's *The Late Show*, portentous one night, pretentious one night, and arts programming is usually consigned to the shadowy end of the evening schedule — a problem which still afflicts LWT's *The South Bank Show*.

All that will change in the next couple of years, at least if you are prepared to join in the cable and satellite revolution. Arts programming enjoys the happy circumstance of appealing to the ABCI viewer so beloved of advertisers and subscription operators. There are clearly commercial interests at stake in the fact that it now looms large in our multichannelled future. Even so, the impending increase in arts provision can only be good news for the armchair aficionado.

Various TV companies have already joined the fray or are preparing their entry. The most enticing manoeuvres are at the BBC. Within the next couple of years the corporation will run a number of free services alongside BBC1 and BBC2, for those who can receive them by means of digital technology. In addition, working with the cable and satellite company Flextech, it will launch additional subscription

services on the cable networks. A new arts channel, named Arena after the old BBC documentary series, is among them.

"The theme will be music, theatre and the arts, but transmitted in prime time when viewers are actually free to watch," explains Roly Keating, the BBC's head of development, music and arts. "We will focus on classical music, concerts like the Proms, chamber music, but also roam widely into the *Late With Jools* area. You might get some jazz, country, a little bit of rock, so it's a grown-up music agenda. There will also be arts documentaries, and we're going to be delving into the back catalogue. The BBC has a huge, fantastic treasure chest of arts programmes dating back in some cases 30 or 40 years. Most of them have been seen only once or twice."

Keating promises that the channel will not merely ransack the BBC's archives but will feature new programming, including a reviews and listings element. He is in no doubt about the potential of such a venture. "The market research so far has shown a very strong and passionate demand among an audience who feel there's a huge gap in the market for something like this."

Not before time, some would say. Paul Findlay, formerly opera director at the Royal Opera House, has for a while been lobbying the Arts Council to fund the establishment of a television company transmitting every evening, via cable or satellite, a four-hour package of arts and culture programming. The principle, Findlay believes, is that British performance which receives public subsidy should be made available to a yet wider audience, an opportunity which digital technology now provides.



Of course, you can get something not dissimilar if you already subscribe to your local cable network. The arts channel Performance, owned by *The Daily Mail* and the General Trust, is available in around 1.4 million homes as part of

a package of cable channels. Not that all of those households, by any means, will be interested in arts programming, but if they channel-hop between rpm and lam they will discover that Performance offers a middle to highbrow mix of opera, concerts, dance and a little jazz. "Up to now, the idea has been

that it's the world's greatest performers in your home," says Bob Lynton, the channel's director of programmes. That's fine, if you are happy seeing them a little later than you would otherwise. Performance has a lowly budget and must therefore purchase programmes that have already been seen else-

where, usually on the channels of European broadcasters. Lynton is nonetheless devising ways of maximising his slim resources.

"We need to make our programming more accessible and learn the positive lessons from Classic FM," he says. The radio station, you may remember, quickly gained a large and loyal following through its non-threatening approach to classical music. "I'm looking to do some kind of short-form programming. In March we have a new series running called *Great Arias*: ten-minute items in which you get the best singers doing extracts from and talking about one of their most famous roles. That will be good for people dipping their toe into opera."

The danger is that people will dip in and jump out. "It's a fiercely competitive business to be in," Lynton agrees. "Virtually every month there are new channels that come on. The majority of people are interested in lots of things: cooking, drama, sport, the arts. Most of us are multifaceted in our leisure interests, so as a cookery channel comes on it's possible that it dilutes our audience." It will doubtless be further diluted when Arena is launched.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 is currently planning its own add-on services when digital transmission comes on stream, and these might include extended arts coverage. Do these kinds of initiatives paradoxically sound the death knell for the arts on mainstream television, condemning them instead to a specialised niche for which we have to fork out?

Janey Walker, Channel 4's commissioning editor for the arts, disagrees, promising a new series of hour-long arts documentaries in the autumn, along with various short series of half-hour programmes. And Roly Keating is adamant that, as far as the BBC is concerned, the opposite is the case. "We will be using the momentum of Arena to strengthen the arts service on BBC1 and BBC2. We might also create a dynamic with a channel like this that suggests new ways of reaching audiences, which will feed back into the mainstream service. We hope that a virtuous circle will emerge." Do not adjust your armchair.

Rocking through space

SPACE-AGE themes, inspired by the Hubble telescope and moon landings, plus a rock-influenced funk beat and some impressive soloists, make the Annie Whitehead Experience one of the jazz circuit's most cohesive bands currently touring the jazz circuit. Most of the band's material is drawn from its recent debut album, *Naked*, and the strengths of that disc are even more apparent in live performance. Anchoring everything is the extrovert

Annie Whitehead
Warwick Arts Centre

drumming of Liam Genockey, whose solid, incisive beat provides the perfect launch-pad for guitarist Ian Malden and keyboard player Jasper van't Hof.

On both piano and synthesizer, van't Hof is the band's most outstanding soloist. His unaccompanied piano work had echoes of Ligeti and Satie incorporated into the post-Herbie Hancock vocabulary of jazz keyboard playing, but it was his jovial deconstruction of a steel drum solo on the band's tribute to Dudu Pukwana that stole the show. Pukwana, like the late John Stevens, was a formative influence on Whitehead's own career, and her composition, *To Dudu*, mixed a variety of colonial influences. Not all Whitehead's pieces were inspired by space or her musical mentors — an effective slow vehicle for Dudley Phillips's bass came from her musical portrait of "her mum and auntie", *Chalk and Cheese*.

Surprisingly, Whitehead's own soloing, even enhanced by electronics, was conservative, but this was outweighed by the strengths of her repertoire and the ensemble. This is a band full of promise.

ALYN SHIPTON

THEATRE: Shakespeare shows his unacceptable face; plus Peter Gill's absorbing new play

Nasty business

WHAT an odious play this is. When the letter comes to Belmont announcing Antonio's lost argosies, Bassanio declares: "Here are a few of the unpleasantest words/That ever blotted paper!" This also describes the wretched play he is in, save that for a few read many. Bill Alexander's decision to cut little, perhaps nothing, from the text ensures that we see and hear how nasty Shakespeare's characters are.

We are obliged to watch the play patiently because it is Shakespeare, this somehow elevating it into a species of holy writ. For our pains we hear Shylock's defence of his humanity and Portia's speech on mercy, both tremendous achievements of thought and language, and in this production spoken with passionate clarity by David Schofield and Cathy Tyson. A couple of the other characters utter some lines of charm and distinction, but the rest is Jew-hating, Jew-baiting, Jew-spitting and a moment of *Mooe*-mocking to add variety.

The Venice we are shown in Ruzi Murchison's design is a city of dark courtyards under a leaden sky. Its narrow brick arches are already crumbling at the edges, the water in the canal is black. For the Belmont scenes a panelled wall

The Merchant of Venice
Birmingham Rep

swiftly descends, affording glimpses of the open sea beyond: we sense a corresponding openness of heart among those who dwell there. But even here Charles Edwards's Bassanio makes a point of crossing the width of the stage to show Jessica the portion of his letter that names her father.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Welshing on the past

OLD Annie looks after Charlie whose son is unemployed Billy who is unhappily married to Shirley who is despised by everyone but Michael who is brother to Marge who is mother to Tommy who is enjoying a gay liaison with Neil whose mother is Dolly whose close friend is Vera who

Cardiff East
Cottesloe

gossips about Stella who has been abandoned by her husband Len and worries about their son Darcie who is having an affair with a single mum called Carol. Unsurprisingly, I spent much of Peter Gill's new play with a squint, since my left eye kept having to check the cast-list. Surprisingly, maybe, my right eye and the grey matter behind were kept pretty ragged throughout.

Imagine an *EastEnders*, Cardiff-version, that has been deprived of a plot and, apart from an act of violence at the very end, of much in the way of event. Or a set of Studs Terkel's interviews being shuffled, thrown into the air and dropped piecemeal on a stage. Or *Under Milk Wood* trans-



Susan Brown as kindly Marge and Kenneth Cranham as the former priest, Michael, in *Cardiff East*

lated into more realistic dialogue and transposed to a housing estate that, as the backcloth indicates, sprouts unappetisingly from what was once scrub and marshland. You still haven't quite summed up Peter Gill's impressionistic picture of working-class Cardiff in 1997.

There has always been a strong puritan strain in Gill's work, whether he is working as dramatist or director. Here he is both, which is why most of the cast spend most of the play impassively watching their stuff on and around an array of stark chairs and a large double bed. It is also why, for all its energy and flashes of humour, the play earnestly warns that Wales is in danger of becoming a gaudy theme park in which there is scant hope for families, communities and the old solidarity.

Change is all around, little of it for the better. Outside the city, dairy farms are becoming golf courses. Inside, the young are surreptitiously turning to crack, and divorce, once regarded as a middle-class indulgence, is getting common. The play's tone is apt to become nostalgic, especially when Gwenllian Davies's good-natured Annie is in full flow, but the serious point is

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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Rock through space

POP 1
Ignore all the nasty innuendo: we are back, and we are models of sobriety, say Aerosmith

POP 2
Chester today, tomorrow the world: Mansun stake their claim with *Attack of the Grey Lantern*

THE TIMES POP ARTS

POP 3
... but on *Sisters of Avalon* Cyndi Lauper gives a strangely subdued account of herself

POP 4
Far from being also-rans, Blur have managed to define the Zeitgeist again, says Caitlin Moran

David Sinclair meets the cleaned-up, not washed-up, Aerosmith old boys

Eighteen 'til they die

What is the most damaging allegation that you can level against a group which has come through 27 years of rock'n'roll mayhem with its hairlines and vaudeville intact? To call Aerosmith "over the hill" or "out of touch" might make sense, but for the fact that their last album, *Get a Grip*, sold 13 million copies and their new one, *Nine Lives*, is as focused and energetic a piece of work as anything you will hear this year. And if you labelled them a bunch of pseudo-delinquent throwbacks who still paint their toenails crazy colours and rock out with all the comic-book fervour of a gang of 18-year-olds, they would doubtless take it as a compliment.

Ironically, the slur that has truly upset Aerosmith in recent months is the public accusation by their former manager, Tim Collins, that they are no longer sober. These days, the assumption that all rock'n'roll bands are consuming copious quantities of drink and drugs goes without saying, and indeed it was Aerosmith as much as anyone who helped to define the cliché.

But the band from New Hampshire which turned the original path to excess into a highway during the 1970s and early 1980s made a collective decision ten years ago to stop. "We had become professional drug addicts instead of professional musicians," singer Steve Tyler says. "So we all decided to put the drugs aside for a while, and it stuck."

Their rehabilitation became as much a part of rock folklore as the tales of debauchery that preceded it, until last summer, when they sacked Collins, their manager of 12 years' standing. Within days, he told a newspaper reporter that "there's a certain element in the group that hasn't totally chosen sobriety," and hinted in an interview with *Rolling Stone* that he knew Tyler was "using again".

"He said that I'm back on heroin," Tyler says, his voice rising in indignation. "Well, the good news is that the band's still together and we've got a great new record, so the hell with him and his childish revenge fantasies. The bad news is that I get some letters from fans and parents saying: 'My brother's back on drugs again; how can you do that when you're a poster boy for recovery?' And it hurts me. It really does."

Both Tyler, 48, and guitarist Joe Perry, 46, flatly deny any suggestion that they have, even for a moment, fallen off the wagon, and both men do indeed look enviably fit. The pair are sitting six feet off the ground in a London hotel room that has been surreally transformed for their visit into something resembling the throne room of a psychedelic Moroccan palace. Their raised sofa is overhung with multicoloured drapes while the floor below is swathed in tanga splashes of orange and yellow.

Tyler and Perry are not the first performers to discover that, as in most other walks of life, fitness is one of the prerequisites of longevity in rock'n'roll. Nowadays their leisure pursuits include scuba diving, skiing and cross-country cycling. Last year they both went boar hunting. "Yes, we shot big, living lumps of flesh with guns," Perry says, perhaps a little too keen to dispel any notion that they have turned into goody-goody wimps.

But like other artists, from AC/DC to David Bowie, who have cleaned up their act in order to keep on rocking, they find themselves in the awkward position of being veterans-in what is still regarded as a young person's job. The group's original fans now turn up to shows with their kids in tow.

"At a meet-and-greet we did in Paris there was a bunch of ten to fourteen-year-old kids bringing their guitars and foot pedals to get signed, and it blew my mind," Perry says. "I'm one of those kids right there. That's me, only I've been doing it a lot longer."

Perry has four children of his own, Tyler five including his actress daughter Liv, who in recent months has bagged more headlines than her Dad. "She's got more balls in the air than Aerosmith has collectively," says the ever-philosophical Tyler. And, lest there be any suggestion of an intra-family

rivalry, let us not forget that it was Liv's high-spirited role in Aerosmith's *Cryin'* — voted the No 1 All-Time Favourite Video by viewers of MTV in 1994 — which played a significant part in launching her acting career.

Making the new album was by all accounts a traumatic affair. Originally recorded in Miami with producer Glen Ballard (who co-wrote and produced *Jagged Little Pill*, Alanis Morissette's blockbuster), *Nine Lives* was initially scheduled for release last September. But the first recording was scrapped altogether. "The record didn't sound like Aerosmith," the band's longtime adviser and record label executive, John Kalodner, told *Billboard* magazine. "It just happens sometimes that it doesn't work out."

The album was subsequently re-recorded in New York with producer Kevin Shirley, but still features three of the songs co-written by Ballard, including the first single, a big, brass-driven belter called *Falling in Love (Is Hard on the Knees)*.

But for connoisseurs of traditional, high-rolling American rock, the wait will have been worth it. Laced with Tyler's salacious double entendres and improbably manic wit, *Nine Lives* is a familiar mixture of high-voltage rockers and epic, lighters-aloft ballads that is nothing if not classic Aerosmith. As Perry puts it: "It's the kind of record I'd want to hear."

● The single, *Falling in Love (Is Hard on the Knees)*, is released by Columbia on February 24. The album, *Nine Lives*, is released on March 10

● We had become professional drug addicts



"I'm one of the kids, only I've been doing it a lot longer," says Joe Perry (right, with Steve Tyler)

MANSUN
Attack of the Grey Lantern
Parlophone 7243 855791
£14.99

LED by the singer, songwriter, guitarist and tortured genius figure Paul Draper, Mansun are not the first British band to boast of their intention to be "bigger than L.E.M." or whoever. Talk is cheap but, unlike other young wretches, the four-piece from Chester can point to five hit singles since signing their recording contract a year ago.

And if that seems like quick work, their album is even more breathtaking. In terms of its ambitious musical scope and the sheer audacity of its construction, *Attack of the Grey Lantern* sounds more like the magnum opus of a firmly established act than an upstart debut.

Beginning and ending with brief orchestral arrangements, the album consists of 11 tracks seamlessly run together to give the suggestion of a

Mansun cast a brilliant shade

vaguely symphonic structure. Contained within this elegantly rounded whole is a riot of colour and variety, from the lilting harmonies and knowing title of *Mansun's Only Love Song* to the glam-grunge crossover riffs and impossibly catchy choruses of *Egg Shaped Fred* and the current hit *She Makes My Nose Bleed*.

Draper's lyrics range from the flagrantly provocative — as on *Stripper Vicar*, their merry tune about the cross-dressing habits of certain men of the cloth — to the pointedly meaningless, notably the gorgeously windswept chorus of *Wide Open Space*. But he

always sounds intelligently engaged and passionately involved with his subjects in a way that often recalls the educated singing style of Thom Yorke of Radiohead. Mansun show every sign of becoming an act of similar magnitude.

● *Drawn To The Deep End* (Polydor 537 104 £15.49) WHAT bad luck for Gene to have their respectable third album released on the same day as Mansun's outstanding debut. It was Gene's singer Martin Rossiter who once complained about the "shockingly low standards in pop music today". Unfortunately, Rossiter's high hopes for his own group did not become a reality, and Gene have since joined the club of superstars that never were.

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1. Blur... Blur (Food)
2. White on Blonde... Texas (Mercury)
3. Spice... Spice Girls (Virgin)
4. Evita... Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
5. (1) Glow... Beautiful South (Gut Discs)
6. (5) Blue Is the Colour... Placebo (Elevator Music)
7. (13) Placebo... Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
8. (6) Ocean Drive... Suede (Nude)
9. (9) Coming Up... No Doubt (Interscope)
10. (8) Tragic Kingdom

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● Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

CYNDI LAUPER
Sisters of Avalon
(Epic 485370 £13.99)
ALTHOUGH a trouper on stage and still one of pop's brightest treasures, Cyndi Lauper has yet to find a modern musical direction that balances her naturally effervescent charm with her status as a mature recording artist.

Aided by her new musical soulmate, Jan Pulsford, who has co-written and co-produced most of *Sisters of Avalon*, Lauper applies a contemporary sheen to songs such as *Say a Prayer*, with its slightly jazzy leanings, and *Love to Hate*, a mild rant during which she complains about "fashion fascists out in droves".

But there is a subdued feeling to the album as a whole. It is beautifully done, but it would be nice to think she has not had all the old ecstasies knocked out of her.

NUYORICAN SOUL
Nuyorican Soul
(Talkin' Loud/Mercury 534 451 £18.49)
DEFYING categorisation, *Nuyorican Soul* is a delightfully unpredictable combination of Latin, salsa, disco and jazz, all brought together by the remix duo of "Little" Louie Vega and Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez.

Embracing with equal enthusiasm the suave club sounds of New York and the pulsating fiesta rhythms of Puerto Rico (hence "Nuyorican"), Vega and Gonzalez have recruited a stellar cast of guest musicians, including Roy Ayers, Tito Puente, Jocelyn Brown, George Benson, Hilton Ruiz, Jazzy Jeff and Vincent Montana. The sounds are not so much blended as rotated: relaxed, conventional jazz swing one minute (on *Gotta New Life*), fierce Latin percussion fireworks the next (on *Hablando El Dominante*), with turntable cur'n'scratch (on *Jazzy Jeff's Theme*) after that.

While applauding the remarkable range of sounds and styles, one wonders if listeners will be as open-minded as the makers. Marketing it will surely be a nightmare.

DAVID SINCLAIR

The future is Blurred

Once again, Damon Albarn has shown Oasis and the rest the way

I imagine how hard it is to get famous in the first place. There are so many songs that are famous, countless faces you'd recognise, but how do you achieve a level of fame where people know what you stand for? Gina G's famous, but no one knows anything about her. The Spice Girls' stance has been taken as a new movement — Girl Power — but what's that all about? Doing kung-fu kicks and wearing short skirts is hardly a manifesto for life.

So let's look at Blur's reinvention on their new album, such a divergence from their previous work that it smacks of trying to become famous all over again. Of course, rebirth comes naturally to Blur: written off as chancers too poppy for their own good, they had to start again from scratch on their second album, *Modern Life Is Rubbish*. When you look again at *Star-Shaped*, their tour video from that time, it shows a band trying to define itself by rejecting everything that was "in" at the time — grunge, glamrock, baggy and dance. Sound familiar?

At the very end of *Star-Shaped*, Blur backed on all their videos from *There's No Other Way to Sunday Sunday*. As two years' worth of

singles flash by, what amazes is how utterly Blur brought about all the iconography of Britpop — red buses, cups of tea, worn suits, Fred Perry shirts, slightly straggly Mod haircuts, a belief that Britain was worth sticking up for, and pop songs that reclaimed the

Kinks, the Beatles, XTC, Madness and the Pistols at a time when these songwriters were all but forgotten.

Having succeeded so entirely with this that, in 1997, you can't listen to the Top 40 without hearing the Beatles, Kinks and Madness influences, Blur are, yet again, in the position where they have to seek out new things to reclaim and rejoice in. This time it's the as-yet unplundered Bowie albums, the Specials, Colourbox, Krautrock and America's more introspective heroes, such as Pavement.

It has been argued that *Blur* is too wilful, that it is a

deliberate attempt to shed teenage fans and disengage from the Blur/Oasis wars. But there are several important points to be made:

● You can grow too famous. This is something Damon Albarn seems to have realised, possibly around the time that

paparazzi holiday pictures of his girlfriend's breasts were splashed all over the tabloids. If you make tabloid-friendly music, then the tabloids will claim your life for their own. Albarn appears to want his face and name back.

● Blur could have released a "best of" album and retired after *The Great Escape*. They could have disappeared for three years and lost all momentum. Instead, they decided to do something completely new, barely a year after their last album.

● Blur are at their best when they work at counterpoint to everything that's happening in

the mainstream. This is why *The Great Escape* was a fairly disappointing album — what Blur did was being done by everyone else, from Oasis to Menswear. *Blur* is a splendid and thrilling album because it throws everything else around it into sharp relief. The bright *On Your Own*; the bleak *Strange News from Another Star* and dub *Death of a Party* have raised the stakes; the pressure will now be on Oasis, and their other rivals, to match Blur's inventiveness.

Blur's *raison d'être* is to infuse British music with restlessness. Just as we were getting comfy with the fact that London is swinging again, Blur have knocked all complacency out of the water. Bands sound their best on the run — and Blur sound like they've lapped everyone else, and moved the finishing post back another 600 yards, just to make things more interesting.

Despite its immediate entry at No 1, I shouldn't imagine *Blur* will be massive hit. But by the time Albarn pens the follow-up, everyone will be wearing baggy skater-trousers, experimenting with dub and feedback, and hanging out with Pavement. Blur have defined the Zeitgeist again. Just you watch.



CAITLIN MORAN

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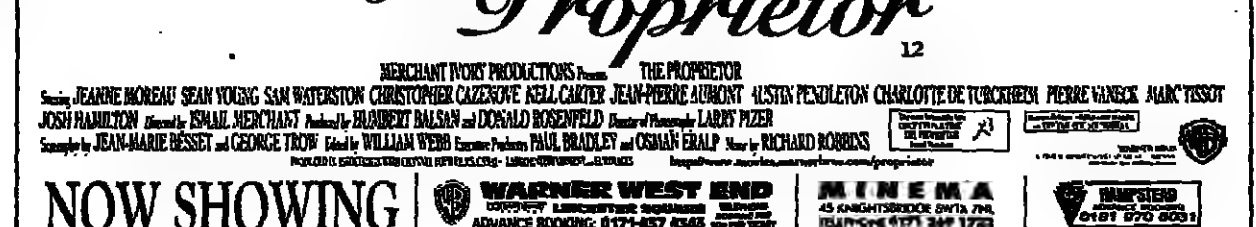
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EDUCATION

John O'Leary wonders whether parents really want to be swamped by even more test ratings

Warning: information overload

When the Government's information revolution hit schools in 1992, the eventual aim was to produce league tables from all the national curriculum tests, as well as from GCSE and A level. Until Tuesday, few people outside Conservative Central Office realised that the dream was still alive.

Despite some pressure from the right wing of the party for publication of seven-year-olds' results, most observers assumed that next month's tables at 11 marked the end of education's statistical adventure. There would then be tables for both primary and secondary education.

Three days on, there are to be tables not just at seven, but at 14 as well, no matter who wins the general election. There will also be a new range of targets, both at national level and for individual schools.

John Major's "secret garden" of education will be well and truly open to the public. But might not this be a case of information overload? Has anyone thought about what the extra tables will show or about who wants the information?

For all the objections of the teaching profession, the case for tables at 11 has always been clear. The tests mark the end of primary schooling in most parts of England, and the results will provide the first objective information on the sector.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has gradually won acceptance for the exercise. And though more than 1,000 schools failed to submit their teachers' assessments of their pupils, the test results will appear virtually intact.

Realists in the profession knew that these tables would come eventually. Even when ministers withdrew their plans to publish the results of national curriculum tests in the summer of 1993 at the height of the teachers' boycott, it was assumed that tables at 11 would be reinstated when the tests had "bedded down".

The same could not be said of those for seven and 14-year-olds, where there are particular problems. With the younger age group, these centre on the accuracy of the results and the likely nature of the tables; at the later stage, it is a matter of finding a universal measure and creating some interest in the outcome.

There should be plenty of interest in infants' schools' results since these are what the most inexperienced parents are choosing. But because about 80 per cent of seven-year-olds reach the expected level of the curriculum in English and mathematics (level 2), most schools will be inseparable if the tables follow the pattern used at 11.

Unlike the other national curriculum tests, those at seven are still administered over the course of a term and marked by the school's own teachers. Though samples are checked externally, once the results are published in tables, it is surely only a matter of time before their validity is questioned.

Perhaps the most significant differences shown up in the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's analysis of last summer's tests were between summer-born children and those who had been at school for a longer period. There was a gap of more than 20 per cent between the marks of those with August birthdays and others born in September. This suggests that until the assessment of children starting school has grown into a value-added system, the results will say as much about entrance policies and nursery provision as about the schools themselves.

At 14, there is no convenient point in the curriculum on which to base tables: an average pupil is expected to be between levels five and six. But even if the logistical problems are overcome, it is hard to imagine newspapers publishing another set of secondary school results that may conflict with the more important ones they already produce. Who, outside the school itself,



Boys doing a standard assessment test. Now the Government wants to publish national SAT results

really cares about the results of 14-year-olds' tests? A straw poll of head teachers this week failed to produce one who had ever been asked about them by a prospective parent. John Dunford, the head of Durham Johnston High School, in Durham, said: "Parents have their eyes on GCSE and A levels, not standard assessment tests. They have never been raised with me."

If the Conservatives thought their league table proposals would provide more of the elusive "clear blue water" between the parties on education, they were soon disappointed. The Labour Party, though restricting itself to local publication, immediately matched the commitment.

With a future Labour government tied to current spending plans and relying on a reordering of pri-

orities to realise Tony Blair's "passion for education", one might have expected a more critical response. Schools are already required to publish their test results in annual reports. Party spokesmen might even have questioned whether we need the expensive paraphernalia of national testing at 14 at all.

Tests at this age undoubtedly are valuable as a pointer to the readiness of pupils for GCSE and have had the useful side-effect of stopping schools using the early years of secondary education as a dumping ground for their weakest staff. But the millions spent on a national system, producing results that attract little attention, could surely be better employed.

Labour would not pursue such

an argument, however, because it opens the door to one of its great fears: the charge that it would be soft on standards. Instead, local authorities will be obliged to produce yet more league tables.

The secondary school league tables may still be derided by teachers, but they are popular with parents. A study by Dr Anne West, of the London School of Economics, published this week, found that 90 per cent of parents choosing a school had seen the tables, even if some did not understand them. The signs are that the primary school version will be just as successful.

But that does not mean that there is an insatiable desire for such statistics. A new government would be better employed improving the existing models than looking for new ones.

Weed out the bad teachers

Susan Elkin approves of appraisal

So Gillian Shephard and John Major have decreed that teacher appraisal is to be a means of identifying and weeding out poor teachers. Not before time.

Early in 1990 I was interviewed by a local authority project leader with a view to my becoming a seconded appraisal trainer for schools in my area. It was a pilot scheme in my local education authority area two years before teacher appraisal arrangements were adopted nationally. I was not appointed.

Some months later, the successful appointee arrived at our school. Her duty was to initiate us into the mysteries of appraisal. And I learnt, with incredulity, that appraisal was to be entirely kindly and benign. Teachers' interests were clearly paramount. Pupils were hardly mentioned. No one's salary or promotion prospects would depend on the outcome of his or her appraisal. Anyone who did not care for the

appraiser his head first thought of was entitled to negotiate an alternative. All of this was eventually enshrined, at the cost of several acres of rainforest, by the Education Department.

What a fiasco. No wonder I wasn't taken on. I had mistaken appraisal for something to do with ascertaining how effective a teacher is. But, no—appraisal for teachers was apparently to be a bland process of reassurance. In effect: useless.

Welcome then is the news that teacher appraisal is, at last, to have some bite. And, of course, it does not matter which party gets elected, because in the current pre-election fever, we all know that whatever Mrs Shephard and Mr Major say this week will be echoed next by Messrs Blunkett and Blair, or vice versa. A competent teacher can, we are told, control a class, maintain discipline, organise the classroom, plan lessons, teach

interestingly and get children through examinations. Quite. An estimated 13,000 teachers, or 4 per cent of the profession, fall short in some of these areas. And there is a tiny proportion of inadequate teachers in every school, as any honest colleague will admit. Staff, parents and pupils are all aware that it's bad news if you happen to get Mr X for mathematics or Miss Y for English. The problems range from a person's being temperamentally unsuited to teaching, not fit enough mentally or physically for the job to cope with its multifarious demands, to being just plain lazy.

I've taught on the same staff as teachers whose shrieking managers are so far out of control that the pupils could be heard from the other end of the building. Then there are those who rarely, if ever, do any marking or who dish out worksheets while they sit at the front of the class reading a newspaper. Or those who are so dull that every pupil detests every minute. I have never worked in a school that did not have one or two of these types.

The problem with using appraisal as an ousting tool is that teachers, about 96 per cent of whom have nothing whatever to fear, are unlikely to co-operate. The unions will howl in outrage on their members' behalf and there are many individuals who would rather quietly "carry" a weak colleague than see him or her dismissed. Misplaced altruism, surely, because that attitude cannot be good for children's education?

If this new policy is to succeed, the nature of teacher appraisal must change drastically to something akin to enforced inspection of an individual's performance by a senior colleague.

How splendid it would be if "New Appraisal" could be implemented quickly. But I'm not hopeful.



Did Eton invent the perfect game for the East End?

Jason Cowley on attempts to introduce Eton fives to the inner city

As you head west out of Bethnal Green station in London's East End, one building stands out amid Victorian terraces and desolate council tower blocks: Repton Boys Club. Founded in 1894 by Repton, a Derbyshire public school, and occupying the site of an old washhouse, it is a monument to an era when the great boarding schools in a spirit of paternalism established missions in the inner cities.

Eton, Charterhouse, Tisbury, Ampleforth, Harrow and Shrewsbury—all set up clubs and societies for the urban poor. Now an attempt to revive this spirit is being made by the Eton Fives Association, which seeks to bring fives, the handball game, to a new audience. Played by pairs in a three-walled court, Eton fives originated, naturally enough, at Eton College. The court, with its buttress, split level and oblique angles, is based on an area outside Eton chapel where for centuries boys played a ball game with bare hands.

Michael Constantinidis, the chairman of the Eton Fives Association, believes it is a perfect game for the inner cities: it is energetic, it occupies little space and the courts are relatively inexpensive to build. The equipment (a small, hard ball made of cork and rubber, and padded gloves) also does not cost a lot.

Mr Constantinidis says that the association is seeking an initial grant of £100,000. "If we got the money," he adds, "we could build a court on the side of a tower block, or fund a



A game of fives at St Olave's School, Orpington: soon East Enders could join in

special project at a school. You would need only about £30,000 to build two courts. The world has not rushed to embrace fives, possibly regarding its bizarre court and rules as just another English eccentricity, like barristers' wigs. One could easily dismiss the aspirations of the Eton Fives Association as eccentric, were it not for the missionary zeal of Jim Cogan. An English teacher at Westminster School and founder of Schools Partnership Worldwide, an organisation that encourages young adults to forge links with the Third World, he draws inspiration from the pioneering work of the Victorian paternalists.

Mr Cogan says: "Many leading public schools used to have missions in the inner cities that were well-funded and well-supported. But most public school people now think that the inner cities are not safe places to visit. Underpinning what we are trying to do is a concern about the impoverishment of our inner cities and the limited opportunities available to poor children, especially when compared with the extravagant resources available to the better-off. The issue of wealthy

institutions sitting on resources that are not available to anyone else concerns me." On a windswept winter's evening, the streets surrounding Repton Boys Club are empty. There is a pervading sense of neglect. Many of the buildings are semi-derelict. But inside the club young boys of many racial backgrounds, watched by their fathers, are training hard: jogging, skipping and sparring.

"The Repton," as the locals call it, is now a thriving boxing club, which has produced several world champions. According to Tony Burns, a former boxer who has run the club for the past 30 years, it provides many boys with "a focal point and sense of discipline" in an area which knows only poverty and inequality.

Yet what chance has fives of catching on? Mr Cogan says: "There is no reason why inner-city children should not enjoy playing it. It is very popular, for instance, in Nigeria, where they play with a tennis ball. Football, rugby, lawn tennis and squash are all versions of elitist games." Though Repton School no longer directly funds The Repton, it still has ties with

Bethnal Green. The charity, the University Trust, which runs the club, holds its AGM at the school, and Mr Burns takes children on tours of the Derbyshire village. Graham Jones, the Headmaster of Repton School, considers it important for children from more privileged backgrounds to understand the difficulties of inner-city life. "As part of our support for the club," he says, "boys from the East End used to visit Repton and use the school's facilities. About five years ago, we also set up a scheme making available an assisted place here for someone from the East End. It is important to remember that late Victorian instinct for doing good work."

Back at the Repton club, Mr Burns nods approvingly as a wiry adolescent in a grey vest cuts through the defence of his opponent with a sharp jab. "For kids like him," Mr Burns says, "the Repton offers a way out. There isn't any discipline in schools. We teach the boys self-respect, fitness and how to conduct themselves. Some go on to become fighters, but just as many escape to be money brokers in the City. Those public schools that set up missions did a lot of good, and we are still benefiting from their legacy."

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Please call 01865 274441, ext 2005 274453 or email hr@ox.ac.uk for full particulars. Applications by 4th March 1997 to The Director (HR), Oxford University Careers Service, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 0PH. They should include the name, address and telephone numbers of three referees.

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MOTOR RACING

Grand prix teams are divided by money row

By Oliver Holt

THE glitz and the glamour of the run-up to the grand prix season, typified by the extravagant launch of the new McLaren-Mercedes at the Alexandra Palace in London last night, was overshadowed yesterday by news that three of the most famous teams in the pit lane are facing combined losses of nearly £100 million because of a feud with their Formula One rivals.

Williams, the reigning constructors' champions, McLaren and Tyrrell have all been frozen out of the latest incarnation of the Concorde Agreement, the document that defines the rules and rewards of the sport.

Each of the three teams originally refused to sign the agreement, apparently because they were unhappy with the amount of money that Bernie Ecclestone, 65, the promoter who has turned Formula One into the sport with the biggest global television audience in the world, was taking for himself and because they were worried about the provisions for his successor.

When the other seven teams eligible to be signatories agreed to the improved terms offered them and gave their assent to the document, the three dissidents found themselves out in the cold, deprived of a huge share of the money from television contracts and the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) prize-fund that makes up a significant part of their annual funding.

The Concorde Agreement divides the sport's financial rewards into two parts. The first part is split into two halves, the first divided equally among the signatories, the other among both signatories and non-signatories. The second part is also divided into two halves paid out according to the previous season's results and on results achieved throughout the 46 years of the world championship.

Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell gambled on the FIA not being able to run the

championship without their participation and there were even rumours of them attempting to set up a separate series. Now it appears that they are desperate to rejoin the fold. The other teams, however, delighted with the extra revenue they are receiving, are reluctant to let them back in and the Concorde Agreement requires a unanimous vote for that to happen. At their last meeting, several weeks ago, they voted unanimously not to re-admit the rebels.

Frank Williams, the Williams owner, said yesterday that it was possible the issue might have to be resolved in court. "It could be over in a week or it could take two years," he said. "If it goes to court, it will be very long and very expensive, but God forbid it goes that far."

There is a great deal of money involved in the whole thing, especially when you multiply it by five years. But when we opted out, there was no deal on the table. Eight days after we opted out, a very lucrative offer was made to the other teams. They think it is Christmas now because they have got a lot more money. "Nobody gets a mortgage without knowing the figures and the terms were not clear so we were not happy about signing originally. Subsequent to our withdrawal, a statement was outlined which made things much more satisfactory and it would be in everyone's interests if things were resolved."

Max Mosley, the president of the FIA, also said he was keen to find a solution. "I think they (the rebels) probably regret their actions and I am doing everything I can to bring them back into the fold."

That fold will include Alain Prost, the four-times world champion. Prost will announce today that he has taken over the French Ligier team, which will be renamed Prost Grand Prix before the start of this season in Australia on March 9.



Richard Krajicek, of Holland, powers his way to victory over Javier Sánchez, of Spain, in Dubai yesterday

Cash finds little charity at home

FROM ALEX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

THE life of a tennis professional is a nomadic existence at the best of times, but for Pat Cash it is worse than most. After losing to Wayne Ferreira 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 yesterday in the second round of the Dubai Open, he is now truly wandering through the wilderness. For the first time in years he is fit and ready to launch a serious attempt at yet another comeback, but with a ranking of No 755, he is all dressed up with nowhere to play.

Yesterday he proved that, with a chance to play the top men, he can still compete with the best — the problem is getting that chance. Now 31, his great moment of glory at Wimbledon in 1987 is just a memory and he is relying on the generosity of tournament directors around the world to

give him wild cards into main tour events. That generosity is wearing a little thin, especially in Australia.

"It's just a matter of getting a couple of matches under my belt," he said. "Ideally, I'd like to play another three or four tournaments and get through a few rounds and then I could start to do better. I'm asking for wild cards and seeing what happens, but I don't know from week to week where I'm going and that makes it tough. Some places are happy to have me and some aren't."

In Australia at the start of the year he found the door firmly shut. He asked for a wild card to the Australian Open and only got one after some debate and waiting, but when it came to the warm-up events no one wanted to know. As for the Davis Cup set-up, they have long since forgotten what Cash has to offer. It has

been so long since he has been a regular on the tennis circuit that he believes that the general public is convinced that he retired years ago.

Since he lives in London and practises at Queen's Club, Cash feels more a part of the British order than his own. "I've not been made welcome by Davis Cup captains in Australia, which is disappointing," he said. "I've been invited to practise with the British teams and British guys more or less whenever I want to, but I've never been invited by Tennis Australia to do anything at all, which is sad."

Unsure what he has done to offend the powers-that-be back home, Cash's only aim these days is to play tennis and stay fit. Against Ferreira there were flashes of the Cash of old, bustling, powerful serve-and-volley stuff that took him to a 5-0 lead in the first set as

Ferreira took time to settle. With so little match play behind Cash, though, it was asking too much of him to sustain it. His errors cost him dear as Ferreira began to play better, but if Cash's body has let him down over the years, the spirit stays as strong as ever and he fought off five match-points before finally giving in to the inevitable.

When it comes to Goran Ivanisevic, the inevitable temper tantrums are never far away. Yesterday he struggled as much with his mood as with Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, picking up a warning and a point penalty for racket abuse, before reaching the quarter-finals with a 7-6, 6-4 victory. He will have to keep his temper in check if he is to get past Boris Becker, who reached the last eight by beating Sander Stolle, of Australia, 7-6, 6-1.

Slalom failure dents Wiberg's medal bid

PERNILLA WIBERG, the leading skier this season on the World Cup circuit, straddled a gate and went out in the first slalom run of the women's combined event at the world skiing championships in Sestriere yesterday, which, after four of the five women's events, makes it likely that she will finish without a medal. The downhill leg of the combined event was called off earlier because of high winds and is rescheduled to be held this morning.

Wiberg, 26, of Sweden, is the defending world and Olympic champion in combined and leads the World Cup standings in overall, slalom and super giant slalom. Wiberg's disappointing runs have seen her fail to gain places in slalom after going out in the second run. In super giant slalom, she was seventh and in giant slalom sixth. The three-time world champion will have her final chance in the downhill on Saturday — the final day of the championships. She will not, however, be among the favourites, having never won a World Cup downhill.

Graf withdraws

TENNIS: Steffi Graf has failed to shake off a knee injury in time to play in a tournament in Hanover next week. The women's world No 1, who injured her left knee during an event in Tokyo last month, said yesterday: "I must think of the long-term future. I do not want to make a hurried return only for my knee to get worse."

Greg Rusedski continued his recent winning run with an easy straight-sets win over Alejandro Hernandez, of Mexico, in the first round of the San José Open in California.

Waugh fares well

Cricket: Steve Waugh, right, made a spectacular 72 off 44 balls in a one-day match against Nicky Oppenheimer's Invitation XI to help the Australians make a winning start to their tour of South Africa at Randjesfontein yesterday. Australia declared on 284 for seven, with their opening batsmen, Matthew Hayden (60) and Matthew Elliott (91), putting on 124 for the first wicket. In spite of a brilliant 133 by Neil McKenzie, the Invitation XI lost by 19 runs.



Fogarty falls

Motorcycling: Carl Fogarty, of Great Britain, crashed twice on his Ducati during Superbike testing at Laguna Seca in California yesterday. He hit his head in the morning and then, in the afternoon, fell again. "I came down on my head and back and hurt my ribs," Fogarty said. "It was a real pity because I was starting to enjoy riding and I was on for a quick lap for sure." He had to settle for a fastest lap of 1min 26.893sec, more than 0.7sec behind John Kocinski, of the United States.

Quarterback switch

American football: The Scottish Claymores announced yesterday that Spencer Fischer, of the Miami Dolphins, will join them as a quarterback for World League season and not John Ktina, of Seattle Seahawks, as they had said on Wednesday. Fischer, who was ranked second in all-time passing yardage (9,022) and touchdowns (48) at Duke University, will join Dave Barr, of the San Francisco 49ers, for the Claymores starting quarterback place in the new season, which begins in April.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most of the slam hands that we have looked at over the past few weeks have been extremely good contracts — I think the worst one was a better than 75 per cent shot. What odds do you need when bidding a slam?

The mathematics varies a little depending on vulnerability and the form of scoring but in general a small slam has to be better than about 50 per cent to be worth bidding. Say Six Spades was a 50 per cent contract. That means that if you played it twice in slam you would expect to make once and go down once. Not vulnerable at rubber bridge, a game is worth about 300 points. So you score +980 when you make it (180 below the line and 300 for the invisible game bonus and 500 for the slam bonus), and -50 when you go down, for net +930 in two tries.

If you stay in Five and make Six you will score 180 below the line and 300 for the game bonus, making 480 points. If you only make eleven tricks you score 450 points. So in two attempts you would also make 930 points. Thus when the slam is 50 per cent it makes no difference in the long run whether you bid it or not. (A great difference in the short run though.)

You need better odds for a grand slam. You are usually risking losing a sure small slam bonus. Generally speaking odds of around 70 per cent are needed. The calculation is similar to the one I have described above. If the grand

is about 70 per cent your average gain is the same whether you bid it or stay in a small slam. Of course it is often difficult to judge how good a grand is during the bidding; you will not go far wrong if you bid grand slams only when you judge them to be lay-down.

It is important in a grand slam to have a more or less solid trump suit. Here is an example of a specialised technique for ensuring that.

♠ Q10876 ♠ AKJ9
♥ AKQJ2 ♥ 1065
♦ AQ2 ♦ 843
♣ — ♣ K88

When East raises to Three Spades, West's hand becomes enormous. All he is interested in is whether his partner has the ace-king of trumps, so he jumps directly to 5NT — the Grand Slam Force. That asks East to bid Seven Spades with two of the top three honours, otherwise to sign off in Six Spades.

Say against Seven Spades North leads a club to South's queen. West ruffs and crosses to dummy twice in trumps to ruff two more clubs in hand. Then there are still trumps outstanding he can cross to the ten of hearts to draw them. He makes four trumps in dummy, three ruffs in hand, five heart tricks and the ace of diamonds. It is an example of "dummy reversal".

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GRIGNARD
a. Chemical reaction
b. A Swiss cheese
c. Part of a ship's rigging

FUCOID

a. Like seaweed
b. Reproductive
c. Organ-shaped

MAUSER
a. A firearm
b. A Kenyan tribesman
c. A trained cat

EPISTASIS

a. Genetic behaviour
b. Platform in the Greek theatre
c. Writing of lesser Apostles

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams overwhelmed

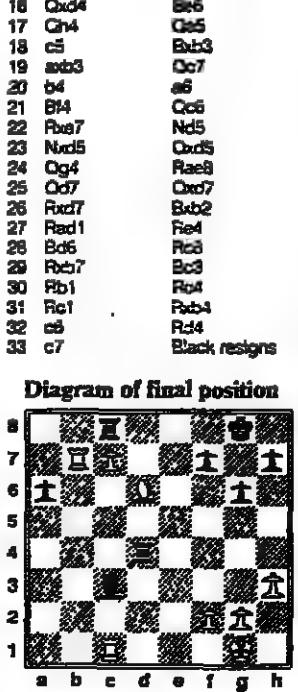
One of the necessary preconditions for consistent success at the highest level is a profound knowledge of opening theory. Garry Kasparov, the world champion, is, indeed, celebrated for the extraordinary depth to which he analyses in advance the sharp systems he loves to employ in his games. Although British grandmasters have succeeded in establishing themselves as amongst the very best in the world and have frequently captured the silver medals in the world chess Olympiads, it cannot truly be said that extensive opening preparation is one of their main strengths. Grandmaster John Nunn, the co-victor at Hastings, is a notable exception but many of the others prefer to employ home-spun systems designed more to throw the opponent off balance than to out-analyse them.

In the following game grandmaster Michael Adams, Britain's No 2 player, essays a somewhat rustic system against Kasparov. Far from being thrown off balance, Kasparov obtains a small but clear advantage from the opening and never relaxes his grip.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Michael Adams
Linares, February 1997

1 e4 Nf6
2 d5 Nd5
3 Nc3 d6
4 Nf3 dxe5
5 Nxe5 g6
6 Bc4 c6
7 d4 Bg7
8 Re1 0-0
9 Bc3 Ne7
10 Nc2 Nf5
11 c4 Ne7
12 h3 c5
13 Ne3 cxd4
14 Nxd4 Nc6

Diagram of final position



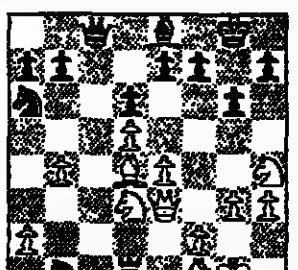
Hospital fundraising

On Saturday March 22, I will take on all-comers in a simultaneous to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal which aims to raise £1 million for their Children's Intensive Care Unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (tel: 0181-725 5096). The cut-off date for entries is Saturday March 15 and only 30 places are available.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Agdestein — Adams, Iceland 1994. As well as being Norway's top grandmaster, Simeon Agdestein has also played international football for his country. How did he put the ball in the back of the net in this game from his match against Britain's Michael Adams?



Solution on page 50

ATHLETICS

10,000m: 1. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 2. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 3. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 4. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 5. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 6. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 7. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 8. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 9. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00; 10. S. Breda (GB) 31:00.00.

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Dorans Pride suffers fall from grace

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of three horses running across a field. The horses are captured in mid-stride, conveying a sense of speed and power. The image is framed by a thick black border.

thrilled with the way Collier Bay has come out of his Towcester race and, in self-mocking tones, he added: "Only I can muck it up now."

Coombe Hill, Osborne's likely mount in the Gold Cup, will run in the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton next Thursday provided there is decent ground. Osborne believes the Hennessy Gold Cup winner is not without a chance but added: "If he's got a chance in the Gold Cup, he must be a good thing in the Grand National with 10st 6lb."

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RUGBY UNION: PILOT SCHEME UNDER SCRUTINY AS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE OFFICIALS TAKE CHARGE IN FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Imperative for England to extinguish Irish fire

Dangers lurk in Dublin. For England, Lansdowne Road is an especially dangerous place. I was on the losing side there in 1985 and 1987 and on the bench in 1993, when we were beaten again. It is often said that, because England were the first to ignore the political troubles and play there in 1973, somehow Ireland are more kindly disposed towards the English. I am not so sure about that.

If the wind is blowing, the ball is being pumped high and far and the crowd is on your

back, there is no worse place for a visiting team.

Ireland, rightly, are chirpy after beating Wales in Cardiff. Tomorrow is the acid test of the England side's development and character, far more so than against Scotland. If England survive, the second half of the five nations' championship can be approached with confidence.

The worst thing that England could do is get carried away by the record defeat of Scotland. They produced a few minutes of outstanding rugby. In all honesty, however, Scot-

land had thrown in the towel. The Ireland pack is a different proposition. Tails are up and England arrive still saddled with talk of expansive rugby. Dublin is no place to get hung up with ideas of fancy stuff.

In Ireland, the storm abates only if it is tempered. France managed to do that on the opening weekend of the championship, absorbing everything thrown at them for an hour and striking with a couple of quick counter-attacks. Above all, England must show patience. Allow Ireland to get on top, as I



Rob Andrew has first-hand experience of the dangers waiting at Lansdowne Road

remember only too vividly in the 17-0 defeat in 1987, and a tidal wave washes you away. The Irish love nothing better than their forwards smashing their way up field and their backs scything through after garyowens. That is what Dublin crowds love and is what England can expect tomorrow. Brian Ashton, in his

advisory coaching capacity, will not have changed that essential Irishness.

I have made no pretence of the qualities I have about Andy Gomarsall at scrum half for England. He is instinctive, possesses lovely footbalting skills and is a good runner, but great instinct does not necessarily make a fine play-

maker. Tomorrow he has to demonstrate calmness under pressure, show the ability to take the right option and kick tactically far better than he has done. England also lack a playmaker at No 8, so the pressure is on Paul Grayson, Will Carling and Phil de Glanville to guide them.

Grayson's place-kicking will be vital. With both ends open to the elements, Lansdowne Road is not of the modern ilk of international stadiums. It presents a true test of nerve and skill. Two years ago a pale ripped down the pitch and the

ball seemed to fly from boot and hand even before you had passed or kicked. That day it blew a bit too hard even for Ireland's liking and England won 20-8.

The lessons from that victory were to give Ireland nothing to play off and frustrate them. First, however, England must curb the Ireland forwards. The front three are ruggedly solid. Jeremy Davidson and Paddy Johns are secure at the lineout and, in the back row, Denis McBride is the great grafter on the floor, while David Corkery

and Eric Miller are the strong, barnstorming giants.

Ross Nesdale impressively filled the hooking role of the injured Keith Wood in Cardiff. He made a fine debut. Even if Wood recovered in time for the British Isles tour to South Africa this summer, I would take Nesdale as my second hooker. In New Zealand, he was understudy to Sean Fitzpatrick at Auckland for four years. He is cool, calm, collected and technically outstanding, but England have sufficient strength about them to win — just.

Popplewell passed fit for Dublin

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE 1997 five nations' championship, the third leg of which takes place in Dublin and Paris tomorrow, will contribute significantly to the pilot scheme for merit-based refereeing appointments introduced by the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). For the first time, this year, appointments will be determined by a three-man panel, according to a world ranking list.

There was considerable disquiet in official circles at some of the refereeing displays in the pre-Christmas internationals in the northern hemisphere, while the performance of southern-hemisphere officials this weekend will be closely monitored. Colin Hawke, from New Zealand, handles Ireland's game with England while Peter Marshall, from Australia, takes charge when France play host to Wales.

Peter Brook, from England, will chair the appointments panel upon which both hemispheres will be represented and implementation will be a primary responsibility of Steve Griffiths, who has been named as the IRFB's first referee development officer. Griffiths, 45, will leave a similar post with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in May to take up his new position, based in Dublin.

Each of the board's eight founder members will nominate three referees for consideration by the panel, the first fruits of whose labours will be seen during the tri-nations series involving New Zealand, Australia and South Africa this summer. The merit-based system means, for example, that the decisive match in the tri-nations series could be handled by an official from one of the competing countries

if, in the panel's judgment, he has the best qualifications for handling a match of so high a profile.

The International squads completed their preparations yesterday, with Ireland confident that Nick Popplewell, the Newcastle prop, has overcome a strained hamstring and will play against England. Popplewell, 32, will win his 44th cap tomorrow and is his country's most experienced player, while, at the other end of the Irish scale, Dennis Hickie celebrated his 21st birthday yesterday on the eve of his second cap, having made a try-scoring debut on the wing against Wales two weeks ago.

Jason Leonard, Popplewell's opposite number — they propped the British Isles scrum together in New Zealand in 1993 — has warned England what to expect at Lansdowne Road, where only five of the XV have appeared in a championship match before. "The kitchen sink and everything else will be coming our way," Jack Rowell, the coach, said, "and Jason has given us the sort of briefing that Will Carling undertook before the game against Scotland."

While England flew into Dublin during the afternoon, the first board meeting was held in London of the company that will run the professional end of the English game. There will be a general expectation that the English Rugby Partnership — favoured to replace the working title of "Newco" applied initially to the company, though still subject to due legal processes — can live up to its name and take the club game forward in conjunction with the RFU.

Gerald Davies mourns the way centres have been turned into battering-rams

The art of centre three-quarter play is almost always on the verge of being submerged by some weighty tactical and technical theory. In what is repeatedly referred to as the "modern game" the role of the midfield players is continually analysed and redefined.

Usually this takes the form of diminishing their style and vision, which is ultimately to the detriment of the game and, some of us believe, its ambitions to poetic inspiration. It is the centre with the timing of a sweet pass and an eye for the gap who so often begins the dramatic sweep which gives rugby its enterprising width of movement.

Centres are getting bigger



In every way — an additional pair of back-row forwards. Out goes elegance as they are perceived as no more than battering-rams. I fear. Except that, once in a while, our faith is restored. Sooner or later the theorists have to acknowledge, reluctantly, that the virtues of rugby — the speed of the ball, the accuracy of the pass, the creation of space and so on — are constant. If Brive, in the Heineken Cup final, gave an afternoon's lesson in the friction-less arts of centre play, Wales provided a vignette of what is possible against Scotland. The catalyst for Wales's first try was Allan Bateman running from a deeper position than is normally advised these days. He took a straight course, then, almost allowing the flight of the ball to determine matters. he swerved outwards on an angle. In taking the ball late in its flight, Bateman went beyond Scott Hastings in a



Bateman has adjusted in splendid style to the demands of rugby union at international and club level after his spell in rugby league

classical outside break of a kind that, because of other players' inability to alter a predetermined alignment, there are too few these days. "I changed my mind," Bateman, 31, said. "Had I taken my original line of straight running, Hastings would have tackled me. Because of Arwel Thomas' pass I could angle my run by letting the ball do the work. Had I started from a flatter position I could not have done it. I had to begin my run from further back. It doesn't matter if it is a flat pass, you hit the ball at a faster pace, which gives you time. If you wish, to take a wider angle."

This makes abundant sense. Yet there is little evidence that other centres practise the simple technique.

However, it is the way they practise at Richmond.

Bateman is grateful to be back in rugby union after leaving Neath in 1990 to play rugby league for the next five years at Warrington and the past two with Cronulla in Australia. In his first year at Richmond he is delighted to be back in the game that he much prefers.

"When I moved to rugby league," the player who won four caps before the change said, "I noticed a massive difference. Rugby league demanded that you be fitter and more powerful. It was also more straight forward and direct. The defences were two straight lines. It was set play all the time short, sharp bursts of action followed by periods of inaction. It was a

power game. But in order to break down the defences we had to look for the gaps, run at different angles and to cut-play decoys. We had to hit a flat defence at pace."

He joined Richmond in October last year and has made an immediate impact. He played for the Barbarians against the Australians before Christmas. "I have a lot to be thankful to the Barbarians," he said. "I wanted to play representative rugby but wasn't too sure whether I would be capable of competing at that level so soon. But when I played at Twickenham it was the chance I needed and found that I could cope with the challenge."

He scored a try but stumbled so much that he only just

managed to keep his balance as he almost crawled his way to the line.

He admits, too, that rugby union nowadays is a much faster game where players need to be stronger.

"If I felt a difference when I moved to league I must say that I have found a big difference in returning to union. The game is more organised. The laws have speeded up the game and because of the continuity which league lacks, a player needs a different kind of fitness to cope with a more flowing game."

"Because of professionalism the playing standards have risen to the extent that there are more clubs throughout the country capable of competing at the highest level.

As opposed to the four or five who could do so when I left Neath, there are close to a dozen now."

Since his impressive return to international rugby, which has suddenly placed him in the forefront of British Isles selection for the summer tour to South Africa, Bateman injured himself in his club's match against Bedford two weeks ago. He damaged the cartilage and ligament in his knee. He has undergone an arthroscopy and missed the last week and all Wales must hope that he is fully recovered for match with France tomorrow at the Parc des Princes. It is quite clear that the Welsh back division does not function half as smoothly without him.

Miller's growing reputation built on strong Gaelic roots

By KARL JOHNSTON

ALEC DUNLOP, a life-long stalwart of YMCA Cricket Club in Dublin, has some advice for the Irish Rugby Football Union. "They should send scouts to under-age Gaelic football matches. Identify the most talented young players and then persuade them to take up rugby," he said.

The suggestion stems from Dunlop's admiration for Eric Miller, and few would disagree when he says that the new Ireland No 8 is the most promising young forward to emerge on the Irish international scene in years. Miller's rise and rise was helped, in Dunlop's opinion, by the Gaelic football that he played before taking up rugby at Wesley College.

Miller was also a cricket all-rounder, turning out for YMCA. "I just played for the thirds and fourths, really," he said. He also played cricket at school, and was capped by Leinster at provincial under-18 level; he played under-15 soccer for Dublin and had a Gaelic football trial with the county under-18 side.

Gaelic football is a catch-and-kick game involving soaring leaps for possession and a high degree of athleticism. Watching Miller either in training or during a game, it is easy to understand how the youngster from Knocklyon, in

the shadows of the Dublin mountains, excelled at his first sport, with Ballyboden St Enda's, before going to Wesley College as a boarder.

"That's when I was introduced to rugby, and eventually I didn't have time for Gaelic [football] or soccer any more," Miller said. "So I played rugby all through my school career, and that's what started me in the game, really."

"I love all sports, and there is not any one game which I could say I dislike. I miss playing other sports, but rugby has taken over and, these days, I simply don't have time to play anything else."

This particular Miller's Tale has been a fast-moving one. At Wesley College, he was a centre, then a flanker and



Miller: sporting all-rounder

ultimately a No 8. Highlights of his school career included a Leinster Junior Cup final, two Senior Cup quarter-finals and — most disappointing — defeat in the Senior Cup semi-final.

"I'll never forget that day, losing to Clongowes. It was terrible, a nightmare," he said. However, the consolation included a place in the Ireland Schools side that won the Triple Crown in 1992-93 and his retention of that place the next year. Then it was on to Old Wesley RFC, and representative matches for Leinster Under-20, Ireland Under-21, Irish Colleges and the Leinster Development XV.

Last season, he made his Ireland A debut and shared in the Ireland Under-21 side's Triple Crown success, after joining Leicester. "The best thing I ever did," Miller said of the move to England.

"I wanted to go to college near there, and some good friends of my dad knew Peter Wheeler [now the chief executive], who was the club president at the time. Anyway, I was a television supporter of Leicester, and I always wanted to play for them."

Going to Leicester was a big help to my game. I've learnt a lot from Bob Dwyer and by playing alongside people like Dean Richards, Martin Johnson and Rory Underwood."

Miller advocates the professional game, but with a word of caution. "I'm trying to get through college, as well," he said. "If guys can spin college over a couple of years and don't give it up, they could have another string to their bows, as well as being a professional player."

The new international is not fazed by the prospect of the showdown at Lansdowne Road tomorrow. "I can't wait for it, really," he said. "England have to be favourites, but if we play to our strengths, play with confidence and play our own game and stop them playing theirs, it will be very close — I know we can do it. I know we can win the game."

"They can be there for the taking, once you impose your game on them, and I'm convinced of that." The Leicester experience notwithstanding, there is no doubting the loyalties of the former Gaelic footballer from Knocklyon. When Leinster, his former province, played Leicester in the Heineken Cup last October, Miller contributed a place to the match programme.

"I must spare a thought for home," he wrote. "... Ireland is the greatest place in the world and you never really appreciate it until you've been away. I know that sounds a bit clichéd, but the green is still in me and always will be."

Prop fined £1,000 for punching opponent

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JASON FAYERS, the 23-year-old Edinburgh Academicals prop forward, was yesterday fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 compensation at a court in Jedburgh after being convicted of assaulting a Kelso player during a league match last November. Fayers had already been banned for four years by the Scottish Rugby Union before Christmas for punching Craig Halliday, of Kelso, and breaking his jaw.

According to the defence, the incident happened at a lineout after a series of infringements by Halliday. David Sole and Jeremy Richardson, both former internationals connected with the Academicals club, wrote to the court in mitigation.

In his letter, Sole claimed that it was an unwritten rule that players resolved their differences on the field if the referee did not. The former Scotland captain added that he had had his nose broken in three places on one occasion but refused to resort to court action.

However, the Procurator Fiscal, Graham Fisher, said the letter displayed an element of cynicism that he felt was "rather worrying" for the game.

Although Ireland received the good news that three senior internationals, Nick Popplewell, Jonathan Bell and David Corkery, yesterday

passed fitness tests for the match against England at Lansdowne Road tomorrow, they were forced into making one change in the A team to play England at Donnybrook today. Shane Leahy, of Garryowen, has a back injury and his place in the second row has gone to Steve Jameson, of St Mary's College.

Fayers in the Emerging Wales team to play France A at Perpignan tonight have been told they have a chance of breaking in the full Wales side. Terry Cobner, the national director of rugby, said yesterday: "All the selected Emerging Wales players figure in our plans for the Welsh team. Whether that is long-term, medium term or short-term doesn't matter. All will benefit from this exposure to a higher level of competition."

There are 12 former internationals in the side, including Derwyn Jones, the 6ft 10in second-row forward, who lost his place after an ineffective display when Wales were easily beaten by Australia in December.

Mark Peregé, the former Wales and Llanelli flanker, has joined his former Stradey Park team-mates, Phil Davies and Colin Stephens, at Leeds. Peregé, who has been capped nine times, will make his debut in the Courage Clubs Championship third division match at Exeter tomorrow.

Be mine tonight.



Ditto.



BASS BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING PREMIUM HAND PULLED ALE SINCE 1772.

Fresh challenges for a talented teenager and the man Keegan sent to Coventry

Chesterfield aspire to new heights

BY LAWRIE MADDEN

THE FLOOD of foreign imports into the English game may have been a trickle to a torrent, but one club is attempting to produce home grown players to stem the tide. Chesterfield, better known for its crooked church spire and outspoken MP, Tony Benn, is fast achieving fame for its football club.

The Derbyshire town, nestled between the cities of Nottingham and Sheffield, at last has a centre of attention of its own instead of being overshadowed by its neighbours. The Spireites — as Chesterfield are nicknamed — are chasing success on two fronts. A second promotion in three seasons would put them in the Nationwide League first division — their highest level since 1950 — while tomorrow the club competes in the fifth round of the FA Cup, again for the first time since 1980, when Nottingham Forest, of the FA Carling Premiership, visit Saltergate.

John Duncan, the former Tottenham



Hotspur and Derby County striker, is the mastermind behind this success. Now in his second spell as manager of the club, Duncan disregards the omen that you never go back.

Duncan places great emphasis on team preparation rather than tactics. "The thing is to get players in teams and positions that suit them; then they are more likely to be able to show what they've got," he said.

There is no doubt that he places high physical demands on his players. "Nothing is easy in football but it does make it easier for me to train and coach them when they are willing to give as much as they do. I can't stress enough how hard they work and train."

Duncan also has a shrewd eye for spotting ability — he has assembled an entire team for £250,000 — whether uncovering and nurturing young talent such as Tom Curtis and Kevin Davies or revitalising the careers of journeymen such as Tony Lommor and Gary Lund.

Curtis, a midfielder player, was spotted by Duncan while playing at Derby County's A team and until recently combined a full-time degree in physical education and geography at Loughborough University with part-time football.

But it is Davies, the teenage striker, who is attracting the attention of scouts. Duncan seized the opportunity to sign him when he was released by Sheffield United because "he lacked strength and speed".

Since then Davies, now 19, has established himself as a first-team regular and sees his strengths as "being big, strong and pacey". His exploits in the last round brought him national attention: a hat-trick against first division leaders Bolton Wanderers set up the lucrative derby against Forest tomorrow.

Recently Davies turned down a proposed £400,000 move to promotion rivals Bristol City and his single-handed destruction of Bolton has sent his valuation soaring. "No disrespect to Bristol City, but I am hoping to do better and like any player I am hoping to go on to play in the Premier League," he said.

Tomorrow, Davies has an opportunity to test his ability against one of his dream teams. This possibility is not lost on him. "The offer from Bristol City was a confidence booster but the game on Saturday is a bigger stage and an opportunity for me to match myself against the best."

Duncan is in no doubt about the future of his protégé. "He's a young player who has the potential to go on and do well. At this stage of his development I have seen no-one better at his age." High praise from a man who was at Tottenham when Glenn Hoddle was starting out on his professional career.

"Kevin has a good footballing brain and has goals under his belt. His application and intelligence is excellent and given an even break I will be disappointed if he doesn't make it to the very top."

Duncan describes the meeting with Forest as "the biggest game in the club's history" and Davies believes they will upset the form book. "We will try and unsettle them. If we can put ourselves about chasing and tackling we've got a good chance," he said.

"We may be underdogs but we have nothing to fear from Forest. We have shown we are difficult to beat." Seventeen clean sheets in all competitions this season bear testimony to his words and the goals scored by Bolton were the first Chesterfield have conceded in the FA Cup.

Chesterfield are hoping that the realities of football in the lower divisions will cushion them against the expensively-assembled Forest team. Each Chesterfield player is responsible for his kit and boots, and money is saved by making



Davies is hoping to rise to the occasion against Forest



Huckerby has found fulfilment since his move to Coventry

distant away games at Plymouth and Gillingham day trips rather than overnight stays.

Up until this season, training sessions took place at two public parks that Kevin Randall, the assistant manager, has named Nou Camp and San Siro. This season the team frequent the Nou Camp

because it is quieter and not so many members of the public use it to take their dogs for a walk.

Under these conditions it is hardly surprising that Duncan looks for players who are "self-motivated and self-reliant". Their character, team spirit and resilience are qualities Forest should beware.

Huckerby steps out of shadows as City's slicker

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DARREN HUCKERBY was paid a huge compliment within hours of Kevin Keegan's resignation as manager of Newcastle United. It came in a hastily organised radio phone-in on that mad Wednesday afternoon, when callers alternately praised or berated Keegan in terms that were distinctly black or white. Most theories followed predictable lines.

Then, in a rare moment of original thought, somebody suggested that of all Keegan's mistakes, his biggest was in selling Huckerby to Coventry City without giving the youngster a proper chance at St James' Park.

The implication that Huckerby ranked alongside some of the international forwards at Keegan's disposal was probably exaggerated but at least confirmed the view that, within six weeks of joining his new club, Huckerby had become recognised as one of the most exciting young talents to hit the Premier League this season.

Speaking before the European under-21 championship match between England and Italy on Wednesday, Huckerby stressed that he did not regret moving to Newcastle, but nor did he hold misgivings about his departure. Where he found Keegan a remote figure, a man with too much on his mind to spend time with a fringe player, he was soon singled out for special attention by Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager.

In fact, Huckerby, 20, is pleased simply to be playing. At the start of the season, with Newcastle's reserve team disbanded, he was a frequent visitor to his parents' home on the outskirts of Nottingham on the weekends when his own team were playing away, and watched his mates in action in the amateur leagues around the city.

"It was ridiculous that I was a fully fit professional who trained all week but could not get a game, while these lads did their job from Monday to Friday and then played more football than I did," Huckerby said. "Towards the end it was very difficult to stay motivated when I knew that I was fifth or sixth-choice striker and the only game I could play was the odd friendly."

His problem was epitomised in January last year after a rare appearance as a substitute against Chelsea. He thought he was making progress. A week later, Keegan signed Faustino Asprilla for £7.5 million.

"Whatever happens I can say I was alongside great players at Newcastle," Huckerby said as he prepared for the FA Cup fourth-round tie against Blackburn Rovers tomorrow. "But now I want to be at the heart of things, not just somebody who happened to be there."

"It was similar when Alan Shearer joined last summer," Huckerby said. "Of course I learnt from training alongside somebody like that but I meant I was one place further down the order. When we were told the reserves had been scrapped, I knew it was time to go. When I first went to Newcastle I was amazed because at times there were more supporters at training than at some third division matches with Lincoln City. But that cannot motivate you forever."

Rejection was nothing new to the youngster. Four years earlier, Notts County, the club he supported as a child, told him that at 5ft 5in (he is now five inches taller) he was too small and would not be offered a place as a trainee. His father, however, played in the same Sunday side, Clifton Rangers, as Keith Alexander, then manager of Lincoln. For friendship's sake the boy was invited for a trial at Sincil Bank. Alexander watched for 20 minutes — and snapped him up.

"His finishing was diabolical but he had great pace," Alexander, who now has Huckerby's brother, Scott, under his charge at non-league Ilkeston Town, said. "We had just started a proper youth policy at Lincoln and I had 18 or 19 players at the start of the season, whom I thought would give us every chance of winning the championship. Since the death of the chairman, we've had to cut back and simply get on with it. We've managed to steer clear of injuries and, if things stay that way, who knows?"

One player who has not settled is Carwyn Williams, the former Northwich Victoria forward, who has been placed on the transfer list at his own request. Mellroy said: "I've got only 15 players. I had 18 or 19 players at the start of the season, whom I thought would give us every chance of winning the championship. Since the death of the chairman, we've had to cut back and simply get on with it. We've managed to steer clear of injuries and, if things stay that way, who knows?"

Kidderminster entertain Altrincham tomorrow and Stevenage Borough, 15 points behind the leaders with four matches in hand, meet Kettering Town at Broadwalk Way. Stevenage's prospects have been hit by the discovery that Barry Hayles, their striker, fractured his leg in their defeat away to Welling United. He will be out for at least a month.

Stevenage and Kidderminster, after a 5-1 victory in a replay away to Emley on Tuesday, are two of only five Conference sides through to the last 16 of the FA Umbro Trophy on March 1. Bromsgrove Rovers may yet be the sixth. They replay against Hyde United, of the Unibond League, for the second time at the Victoria Ground on Monday.

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McIlroy's declining number in hot pursuit of leaders

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

MACCLESFIELD Town remain buoyant in their pursuit of Kidderminster Harriers at the head of the Vauxhall Conference, having closed the gap from 15 points to four, having played the same number of matches, by thumping Huddersfield Town 4-0 at Moss Rose on Tuesday. It was a swift way for Macclesfield to bounce back after their 2-1 defeat away to Dover Athletic last Saturday — their first in the Conference since December 10.

Macclesfield's defence has conceded only 16 goals in 29 Conference matches, the mid-field has been highly consistent and the attack has been reinforced by the arrival of Peter Davenport, from Southport, and Richard Landon, a loan signing from Stockport County, who scored twice against Huddersfield.

Landon's loan period runs out after Macclesfield's home match against Rushden and Diamonds tomorrow. Sammy McIlroy, the manager, said: "He's got on well here and I'll be speaking to Dave Jones at Stockport to see what the position is."

One player who has not settled is Carwyn Williams, the former Northwich Victoria forward, who has been placed on the transfer list at his own request. Mellroy said: "I've got only 15 players. I had 18 or 19 players at the start of the season, whom I thought would give us every chance of winning the championship. Since the death of the chairman, we've had to cut back and simply get on with it. We've managed to steer clear of injuries and, if things stay that way, who knows?"

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity Commission Notice
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

Notice is hereby given that the following person has been appointed as administrator of the following company:

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'Fat and useless were the words I can repeat — there were several I can't'

Le Tissier destined to walk alone

Now, not many people know this. In 1865, when John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln, he was harboured briefly by a man named Dr Mudd. This is all true. Consequently, so deeply unpopular was this Dr Mudd, that he became a byword for — well, for unpopularity. It was all jolly unfair, as it happens. His family have worked to clear the name ever since. Yet we still say "my name will be mud". And that's the way it goes.

I mention this for a good reason. Because one day, in the distant future, when your grandchildren thoughtlessly hurl the wounding insult "let's it" at each other, you will be able to say: "I know where that comes from! It's a corruption of the name Le Tissier and dates from the World Cup qualifier in February 1997, when Le Tissier became the most unpopular man in England!" And they will look at you with eyes stretched wide and say: "God, grandpa, you're so boring."

I have never been in a lynch mob, but after Wednesday night at Wembley Stadium I have direct experience of what it feels like. If enraged insults were javelins, Southampton's Matt Le Tissier would have been impaled to the pitch in the first 15 minutes by the folk sitting in block 228.

It would have been a single whoosh-whoosh-whoosh-whump like the archery scene in Oliver's Henry V. Steam came out of ears, tops were blown off, and Le Tissier was always the man to blame. Even standing still and doing nothing at all, he got their goat — perhaps because standing still was inappropriate in the circumstances. Anyway, "fat" and "useless" were the words I can repeat. There were several others I can't.

The fans in the upper section of block 228 — mostly rather fat and useless themselves, if I may say so — were not just mildly irritated by Le Tissier. His stodgy demeanour obsessed them, and they kept leaping up and pointing, like

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

excitable Chinese at a public denunciation. And they had their reasons, of course. I mean, he wasn't single-handedly responsible for losing the match, but on this day of days, it was curious that Le Tissier seemed to be heading the advice normally reserved for sickly Victorians — never run when you can walk.

Obviously, there is nothing certain about sport, but I had romantically assumed the opposite would happen on Wednesday. "Oh good, a chance for Le Tissier," I thought. In my mind's eye, he would embrace this opportunity to prove himself worthy of an England place, the way Gianluca Vialli played like a demon when finally allowed on for Chelsea against Liverpool the other week. Until Wednesday night, Le Tissier had played a total of 202 minutes for England, the majority of them some time ago.

His selection for the Italy match looked, therefore, like a boy's dream. Yet he was sidelined throughout, and when he finally left the field in the sixtieth minute — to be replaced by a skipping, energetic, and oh-so-popular Les Ferdinand — it looked very bad for him. Arguably, he's just the scapegoat for a tactic that didn't work. But Ferdinand's entrance really rubbed it in. Here come the marines,

and all that. Sensitive to the occasion, Ferdinand almost cartwheeled.

For me, this was the first international I've seen in which the team made sense as individuals. I now know what Stuart Pearce does for a living: it is slightly bizarre to see Batty, McManaman and Beckham all playing in the same shirt, in the same direction. Previously, my perception of the England team had echoes of the 1970s supergroup composed of people unheard of elsewhere. But now I can see how Crosby and Nash are soul mates, but that Sills has different ambitions, while Young is on a planet elsewhere on his own.

I have reached, in fact, the stage of thinking it's a miracle that they can play together at all. And like everyone else on Wednesday, I hated the risky, experimental nature of Glenn Hoddle's side. Give us what we know, for heaven's sake; this is serious. David Seaman was injured, but that's no excuse for giving Ian Walker all that responsibility. Having just read Alan Shearer's *Diary of a Season* (the one in which he famously celebrates winning a match by creating a fence), I looked forward to seeing Blackburn's Tim Flowers, whom Shearer repeatedly calls one of the best goalkeepers in England.

Incidentally, the Curse of the Programme Overaken by Events prevailed again. Seaman on the cover, articles on Gascoigne, Vialli and England 2000. It was a disgruntling night altogether, dominated by a sense that we'd been deluding ourselves and living on dreams.

But at least I could shuffle back to the tube station and get home at last, merely stunned with disappointment and shivering with the first symptoms of flu. Poor Le Tissier had to walk off thanklessly into history and become a byword. I've never understood why people dislike him so much; but I am forced to accept it now. They really, really do.



Dejected and in despair, Le Tissier trudges off at Wembley on Wednesday night

GOLF: SCORES ADJUSTED AFTER PLAYERS PROTEST AT BUGGY RULING IN FIRST ROUND AT SUN CITY

By MEL WEBB

THEY were allowed not to march right up to the top of the hill, but should definitely have marched back down again. The first day of the Dimension Data Pro-Am in Sun City degenerated into near-farce yesterday, and it all had to do with golfers taking rides in buggies.

At the heart of the trouble was the steeply elevated 14th tee at the Lost City course, which is sharing the first two rounds with the nearby Gary Player course. To save the players having to carry crampers and abseiling rope in addition to clubs, they were allowed to get a lift on a buggy onto the tee.

So far, so good; but what they were

not told was that tournament officials had decided to allow a local PGA ruling that forbade them from coming back down the mountain on four wheels instead of two feet. The result was that most of the players were penalised two shots, including Nick Price, who had a 67 with eight other players to finish the day two shots behind Ronnie McAnn, South African-born but now a United States citizen.

When Price's misdemeanour was discovered, he joined the rest who had hitched a lift down the hill and had paid for it with a two-shot penalty. He was not happy, and neither were the others, and, after increasingly heated protests, the decision, which players

complained they had not been told about, was reversed and two shots were lopped off the unwitting offenders' scores again.

Price was relieved, especially as he had been heading nowhere in particular when he put together a run of seven birdies in the last 12 holes. His slice of justice having been achieved, Price said he would have been relieved to have finished with a par 72.

So would Severiano Ballesteros. The

beleaguered Ballesteros has, sadly, too many of those days these days.

Tiger Woods, a man at the opposite end of the career curve, is not put in the shade too often, but it happened to him yesterday in the Australian Masters at Huntingdale. Woods had a 68 for a share of fifth place, four strokes behind Lucas Parsons, of Australia. The big-hitting Woods, 21, birdied all four par-fives and used his driver only once.

Talking of drivers, Nigel Mansell was frustrated by the lack of speed among his rivals in the Strokesaver Masters at La Manga, Spain. While he loitered, the former Formula One driver scorched round, but, after a 79, he was still 23 strokes behind David Park, the leader.

BOWLS

Avon ladies on doorstep of club final

By DAVID RYNS JONES

EGHAM B, who were hoping to win the Yettin Trophy — for the national women's inter-club championship — for the third time in succession, suffered a 79-77 defeat at the hands of Avon Valley in the quarter-finals yesterday.

Both home risks won for Egham, but the away risks, skipped by Mavis Steele and Ann Green, went down by one and 4 shots, respectively, to Jean Thompson and Maureen Timms.

Avon Valley's opponents in the semi-finals at New Earswick, York, on March 8 will be Teignbridge, who defeated Atherley 81-72. Boston, the 1994 champions, swept past Cumbria 98-72 and will play Desborough, Maidenhead, the runners-up last year, who beat County Arts 87-65.

In Wales, Betty Morgan's hopes of winning three national indoor titles vanished yesterday when, with Jenny Davies, her Radnorshire clubmate, she was beaten 18-16 by Synthia Morgan and Julie Davies, the defending champions, in the final of the pairs.

Ann Sutherland, of Torfaen, scored on only 12 out of 28 ends in the Welsh indoors singles final, but still beat Jeallian Willis, of Swansea. Sutherland scored a full house to tie the scores at 15-15 and an even more important treble to win 21-20.

Morgan, who will play the triples final today, bounced back later to skip her Radnorshire team to the fours title.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

GRIGNARD
(a) Organic chemical compounds, created by Grignard reagents, that found applications as some of the most versatile reagents in organic synthesis. Members of the class contain a hydrocarbon radical, magnesium, and a halogen such as chlorine. An eponym of François Grignard (1871-1935), French chemist, who shared the 1912 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

FUCOID
(a) Resembling or belonging to seaweeds, especially those belonging to the group Fucoidae. Or containing impressions of such seaweeds with markings similar to theirs.

MAUSER
(a) The first successful rifle with a magazine. Patented in 1871 by Peter Paul Mauser (1838-1914), and developed and manufactured in 1884, in time for the Boer War. There were two versions: 11mm and 7.92mm. It took a metal cartridge. In the early version the soldier had to give the weapon a sharp tap to throw out the spent cartridge.

EPYSTASIS
(a) The interaction between genes at different places on a chromosome in which one can mask or even suppress another. This will lead to the expression of one hereditary characteristic, and the exclusion of the other, when the two are controlled by alleles of different genes. More widely used to describe any interaction of non-allelic genes. Each gene may have favourable effects in some combinations and unfavourable effects such as overdominance in others.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Nf3 creates too many threats for Black in c6 with, e.g. 1... ex5 2 Qg5, mating, or 1... Qc7 2 Qb6 again mating.

SAILING

Food poisoning no deterrent

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ADRIAN DONOVAN, the skipper of *Heath Insured II* is continuing to hold on to second position in the tightly-fought laser stages of the short third leg of the BT Global Challenge across the Tasman Sea from Wellington to Sydney.

This is a good performance by any standard but is especially so given that seven of his 14-strong crew, including himself, have been struck down with food poisoning after eating kidney beans in a freezer-dried chilli con carne.

As Donovan reported yesterday, the *Heath* crew endured a "bad few hours" as they succumbed to stomach cramps, dizziness, shivering and vomiting as their nearest

rivals, *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, *Pause To Remember*, *Concert and Nuclear Electric* tried to pick them off.

"We had an interesting few hours with me, John Shuttlebottom (a company director from Cheshire) and Mike Babcock (a solicitor from London), taking two-minute spells at the wheel in between throwing up over the stern," Donovan said.

"As people recovered, we had a decent level with us and the others coming in fast. Everyone was now very tired either from working extra or recovering from the sickness," Donovan said. He is determined to catch the race leader, Mike Golding on *Group 4*, who still leads the leg.

SWIFTCALL

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**feels pinch
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of films came to an end with Ice Mummies — Horizon Special (BBC2). Tim Haines' film lacked the natural advantages of its predecessors, in that the finding of a new ice mummy marked the end of rather than the beginning. The scientific detective story that made the stories of the Ice Maiden and Ice Man so fascinating was just starting as the body of an ice child made its way down the slopes of Sara Sara in the Andes and the final credits rolled.

But what it lacked in applied science, it made up for with the mystery of the Incas, the grim fascination of *cacha cocha*, or child sacrifice ceremonies, and the excitement and exasperation of carrying out an archaeological dig at 18,000 feet.

"This was her Heaven," concluded Nigel le Vaillant's narration. "Now she's off to a freezer at Arequipa University." The gods will not be best pleased.

CHANNEL 4

5.00am Seaside Street (20375) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (25733) **9.00 Bewitched** (48511)
9.30 Schooled (T) (687849)
10.00 Bloom (T) (68375) **12.30pm Here I Am**
One I Made Easy (T) (65917) **1.00 Court Martial**
(T) (24541375) **1.25 The Scarecrow**
(b/w), A Buster Keaton short (15934714)
1.50 Film: The Clock (1945, b/w) Romantic
drama with Judy Garland in her first non-
singing role. Directed by Vincent Minnelli
(T) (16736648)
3.30 Travelling Light Tim Grundy and Peter
Hamilton leave Chester for the Newton
Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway
Football Club, the birthplace of
Manchester United (T) (443) **4.00 Fitness**
(T) (679) **4.30 Country** (T) (443)
4.42 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (5482) **5.30 Pe**
Rescue (T) (714)
6.00 Fit Friday (7608)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (412207)
7.15 The Political Spot An MP is given
the chance to make a personal presenta-
tion to the House of Commons.
8.00 Bloom Delinquents, Britain's rarest wild
flower - the pease flower and the
humble buttercup (3/6) (T) (1646)
9.00 Gardeners' World, here might be in the

9.00 Dressing For Breakfast Louise learns the truth about her mother's new boyfriend (8/7) (T) (2733)

9.30 Spin City Comedy series starring Michael J. Fox. Ashley is given the chance to become an on-air news reporter (T) (75163)

10.00 Roseanne A Visit to a luxury health spa proves a little too much effort for Roseanne and Jackie (T) (85004)

Host Johnny Vaughan (10.30pm)

5.30 **SHOICE** Here's Johnny New series of comedy, chat and celebrity guests hosted by Johnny Vaughan (1/7) (T) (502682)

6.05 The Girl Show (5/12) (151153)

6.35 TFI Friday (7) (848065)

7.00am Robin A new animated series from Sweden — strictly for adults (8441883)

45  **Fleets (1/8)** New music series (72134)

15 FILM: Dead of Night (1945, b/w) with Mervyn Johns. Five tales of the supernatural. The directors are Robert Cavanagh, Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden and Robert Hamer. (1983)

16 FILM: Man in the Black Seat (1961) A thriller starring Damon Nazbitt and Keith Faulkner. Directed by Vernon Sewell (1808009)

17 FILM: The Legend of Hell House (1973) A supernatural horror directed by John Hough (7172386). Ends at 5.50

9117  **(131515)** 11.00 Young and the Restless (5250240) 11.00 New Mr and Mrs (6492191) 12.25pm Call the Doctor (50505) (5981559) 12.55 Tempest (1144207) 1.45 (1315155) 1.55 (1315155) 2.30 Acorn

[illegible][illegible]

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